



STORY AND ART BY  
NATSUKI KIZU

# given

2









# Given

Story and Art by **Natsuki Kizu**

volume **2**

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# given

VOLUME 2

NATSUKI KIZU



# STORY

## MAFUYU SATO

High school classmate of Uenoyama's. Has an impressive singing voice. Attached to Uenoyama ever since he fixed Mafuyu's broken guitar.

## HARUKI NAKAYAMA

Graduate student. The band's bassist. He's extremely good-natured and kind.

## AKIHIKO KAJI

University student. The band's drummer. A bit of a playboy who's popular without ever trying.

High school student Ritsuka Uenoyama just wants to take a nap at his favorite hiding spot, but instead he finds classmate Mafuyu Sato already sleeping there, cradling a broken-stringed guitar. After Uenoyama fixes the guitar, Mafuyu begs him to teach him how to play. Uenoyama's never taught a beginner before, so he's reluctant, but he finally gives in to Mafuyu's persistent requests and begins teaching him the basics—until the day he first hears Mafuyu sing.

Floored by Mafuyu's talent, Uenoyama immediately asks the other boy to join his band without even consulting bandmates Akihiko Kaji and Haruki Nakayama. Determined to come up with a new song for them to play at their first live concert, Uenoyama gives Mafuyu the job of writing the lyrics, a task the quiet student finds nearly impossible.

Then one day, Uenoyama hears something disturbing about an old classmate of Mafuyu's. The rumors say that this student suddenly committed suicide, and that he was very close to Mafuyu...

## RITSUKA UENOYAMA

Lead guitarist with skills far beyond those of an average high school student. Caring and compassionate. The consummate little brother to his big sister, Yayoi, who totally has him trained.









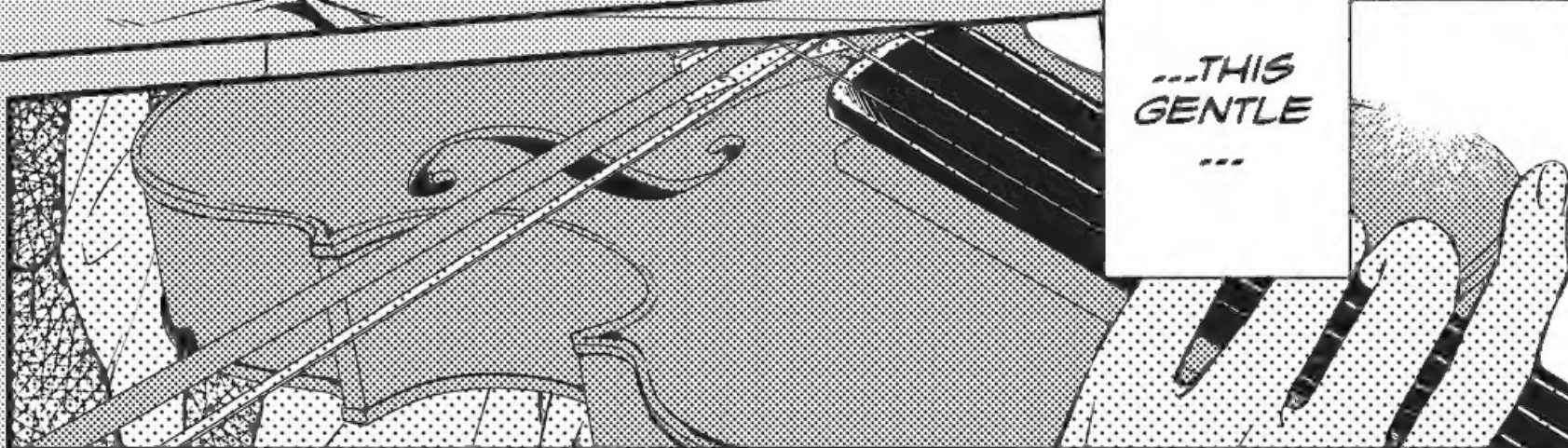


chapter 7 | given

I'D  
ALWAYS  
THOUGHT  
THAT...

...LOVE  
WAS  
SUPPOSED  
TO BE...

...THIS  
GENTLE  
...



...  
SWEET  
...

...  
TENDER  
THING.





AND  
THEN

...

...WHEN  
I FELL  
IN LOVE  
FOR THE  
FIRST  
TIME I  
LEARNED

...

...THAT  
WAS  
JUST A  
PLEAS-  
ANT  
LITTLE  
LIE.

LOVE IS A  
FORCE SO  
POWERFUL  
IT FEELS  
LIKE IT  
WILL TEAR  
YOU APART.

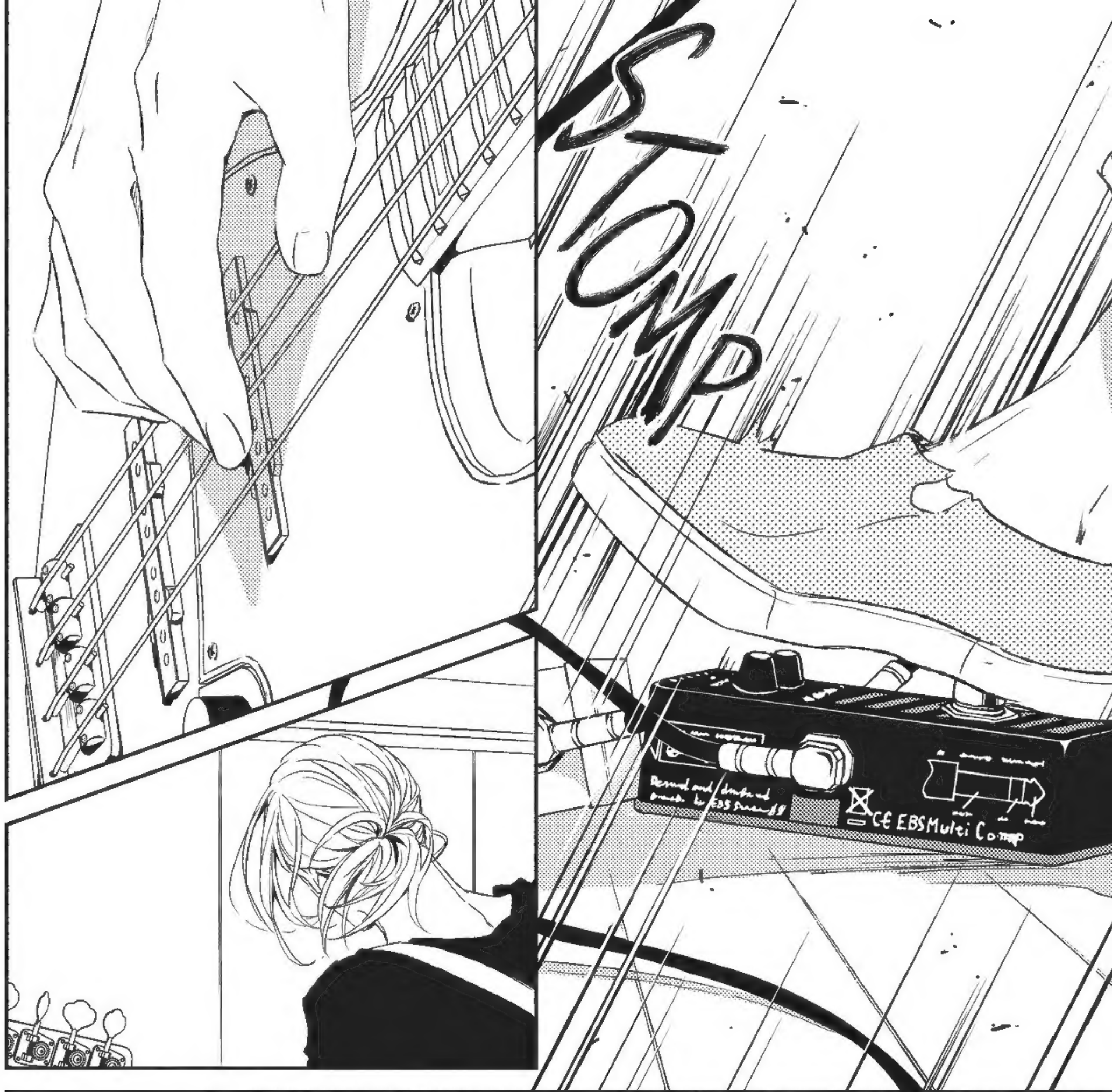


# given

## chapter 7















MAFLUYU  
STILL  
HASN'T  
MANAGED  
TO COME  
UP WITH  
A SINGLE  
LINE FOR  
THE NEW  
SONG.




...  
THESE  
TWO  
ARE  
IN A  
SLUMP.



OF  
COURSE  
THEY'RE  
AFFECT-  
ING  
EACH  
OTHER...



AND  
UECCHI'S  
GUITAR  
PLAYING  
HAS  
BEEN  
STRANGELY  
OFF.



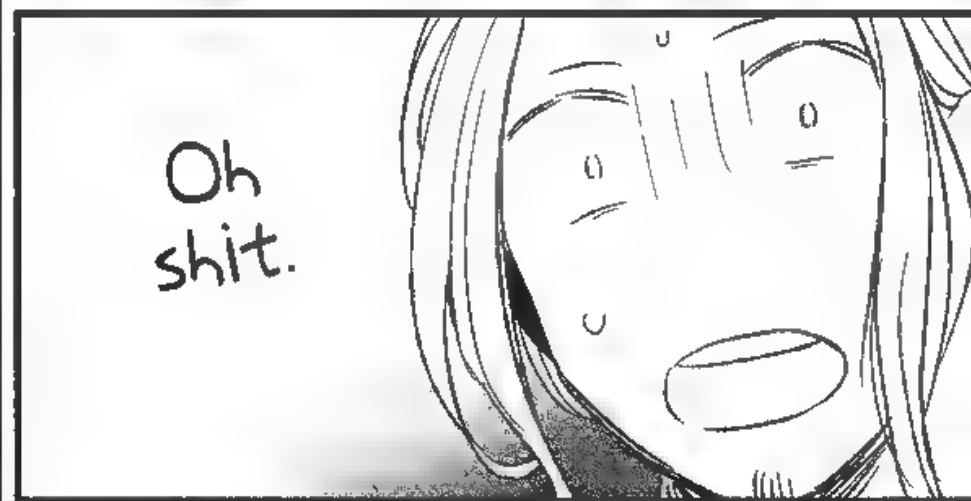
I FEEL  
LIKE  
THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
ELSE  
THAT'S  
BUGGING  
UENOYAMA.

BUT  
STILL  
...













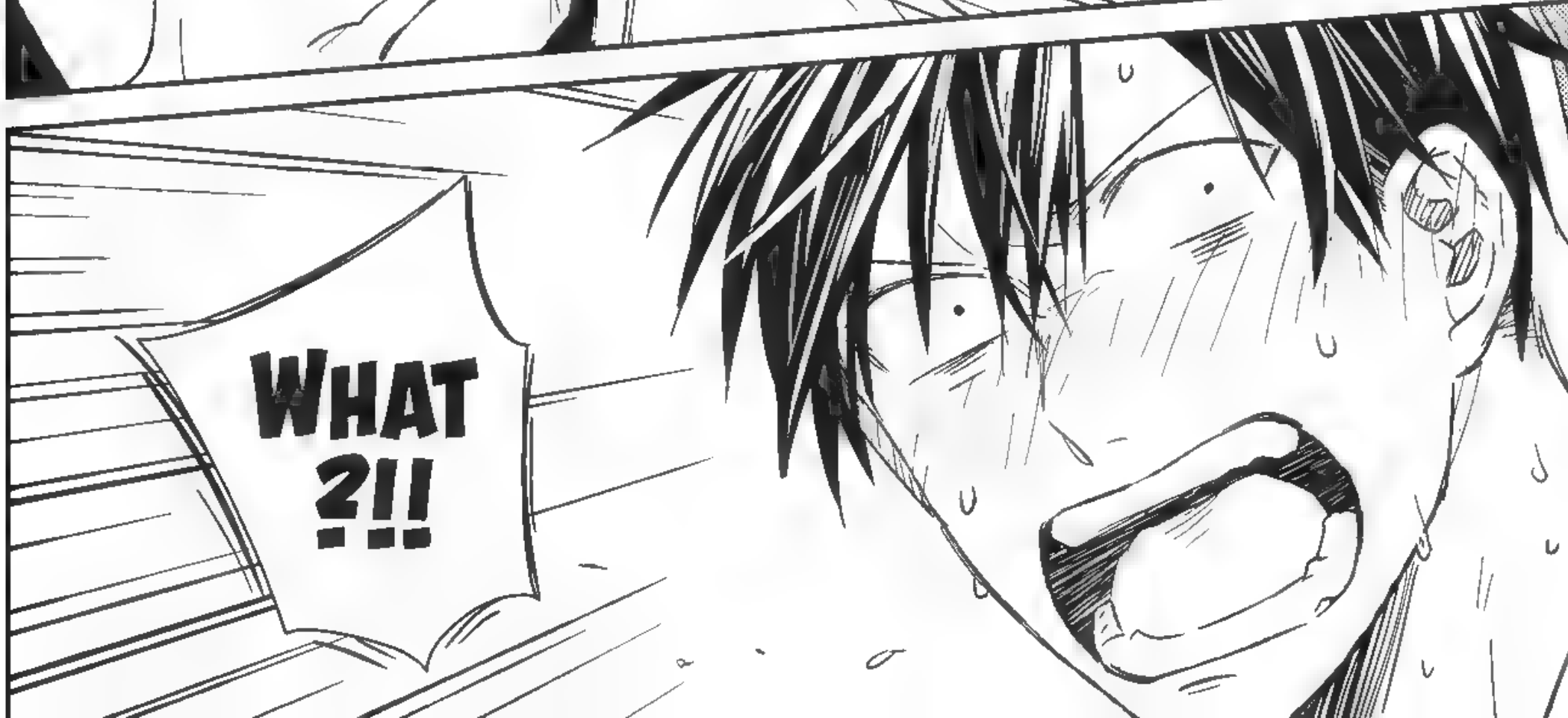




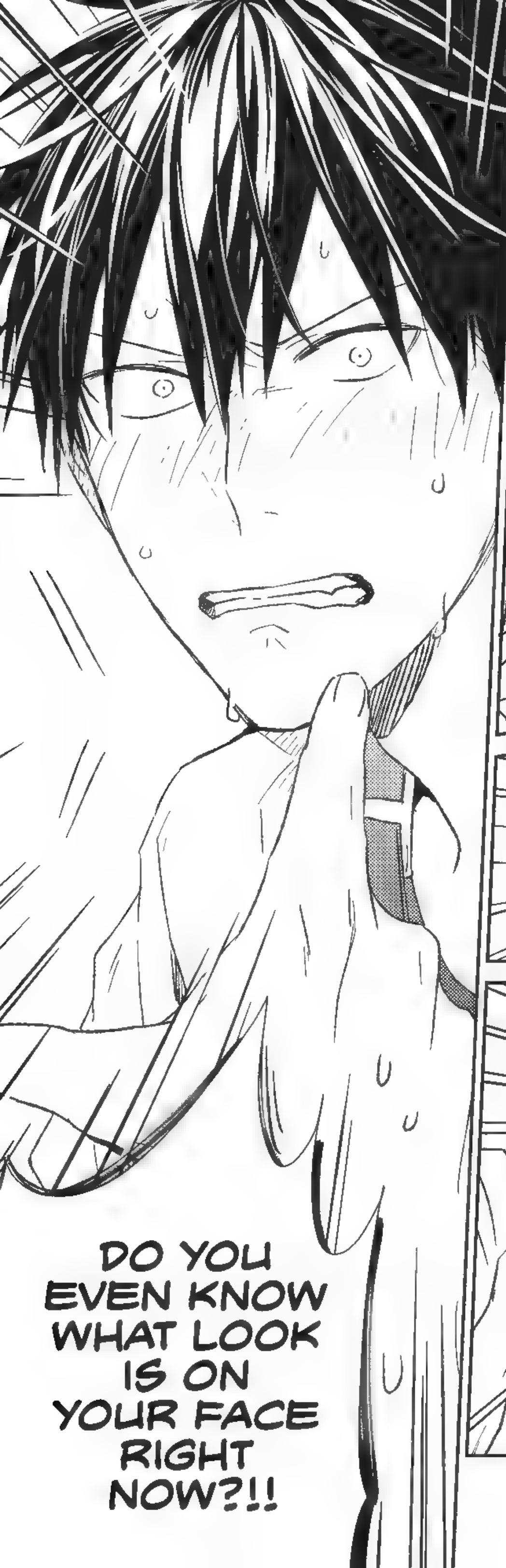












DO YOU  
EVEN KNOW  
WHAT LOOK  
IS ON  
YOUR FACE  
RIGHT  
NOW?!!



WHAT  
ARE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?!

I....  
I  
THOUGHT  
YOU  
WERE A  
VIRGIN...



RAWR

"MADE A  
MOVE  
ON HIM"?!  
"VIRGIN"?!  
WHAT  
KINDA...

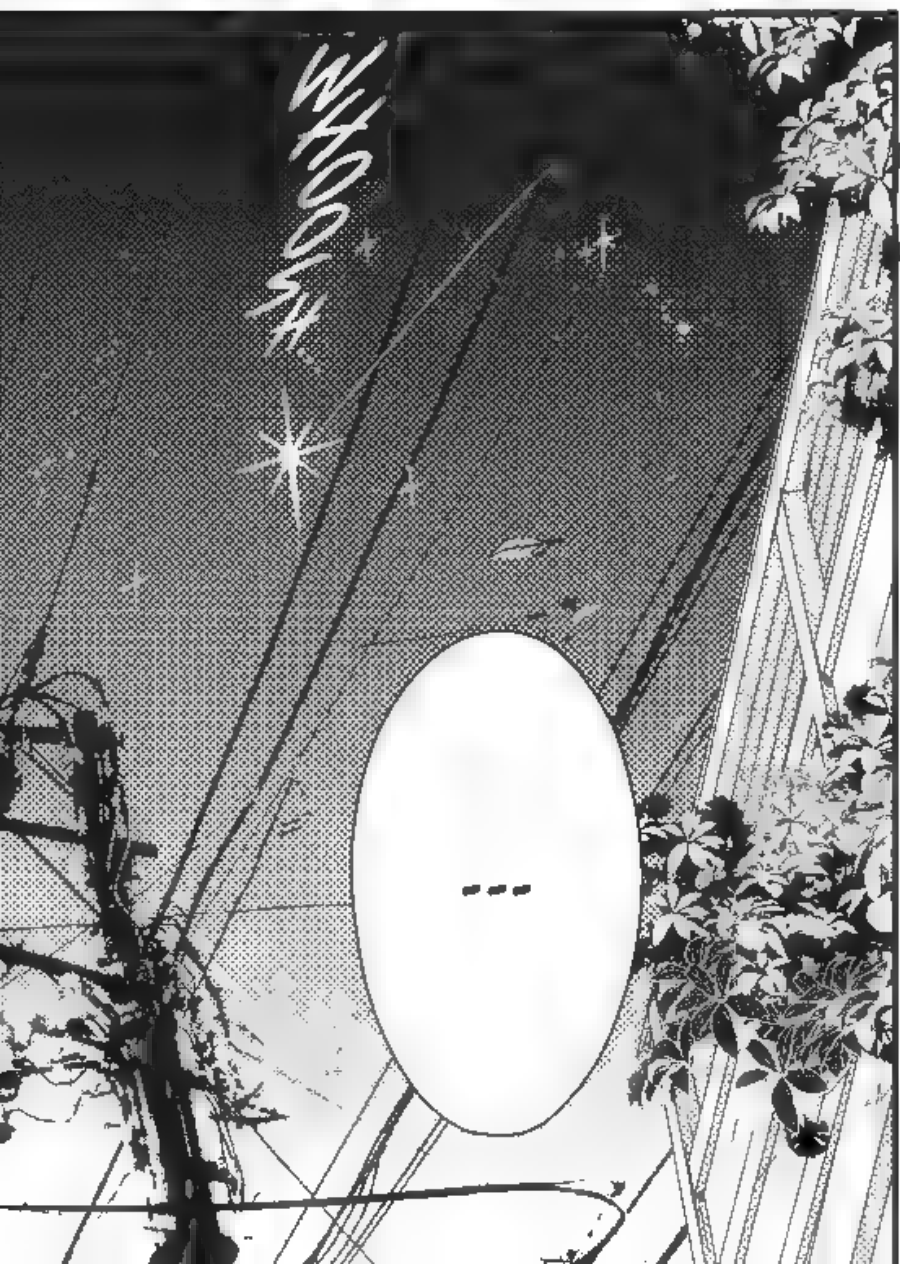


...CRAZY  
CRAP  
ARE YOU  
ASSUM-

SWAP

I'M NOT  
ASSUMING  
ANY-  
THING!!!













NOT  
AT  
ALL.



WHY  
WOULD  
YOU BE  
WEIRD?



'CAUSE  
HE'S A  
GUY?



LIKE, "I'M  
SUPPOSED  
TO BE  
SEXUALLY  
ATTRACTED  
TO WOMEN  
ONLY"?



RELAX.  
THAT'S  
WHAT I  
USED TO  
THINK  
TOO....

---







SO IT'S  
YOUR  
RESPON-  
SIBILITY  
TO  
SUPPORT  
HIM.

EITHER  
WAY...

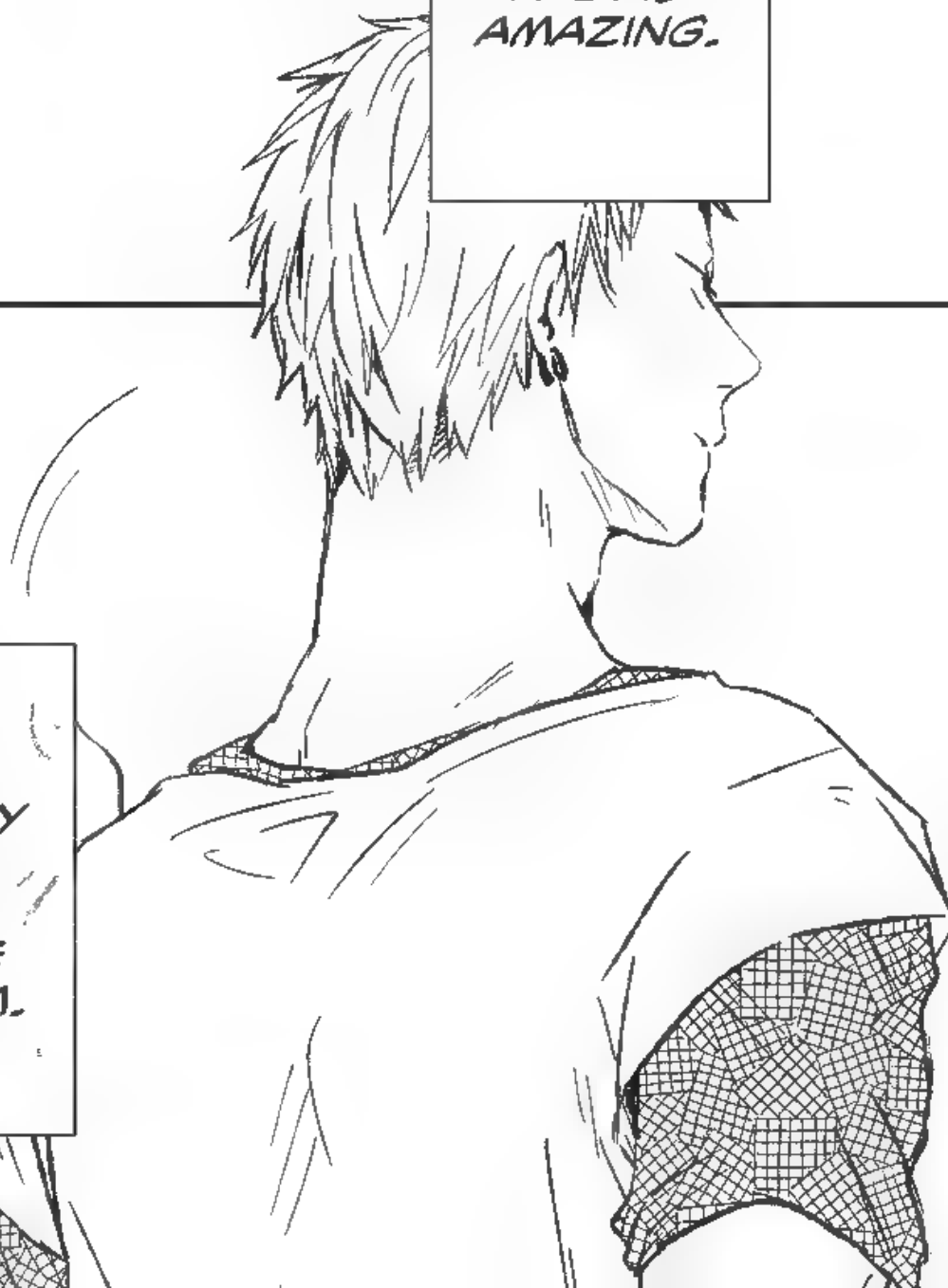
...MAFLYU  
IS TRYING  
TO WRITE  
A SONG,  
LIKE YOU  
TOLD HIM  
TO.



KAJI IS  
AMAZING.

I CAN  
SEE WHY  
YAYOI  
IS MAD  
IN LOVE  
WITH HIM.

HE  
CALMED  
ME  
DOWN  
WITH  
JUST  
A FEW  
WORDS.



I STILL  
DON'T  
KNOW...



KAJI  
SAID  
THAT IT  
WAS  
"OVER  
NOW."

YOU  
WANT  
A LIFT  
HOME?

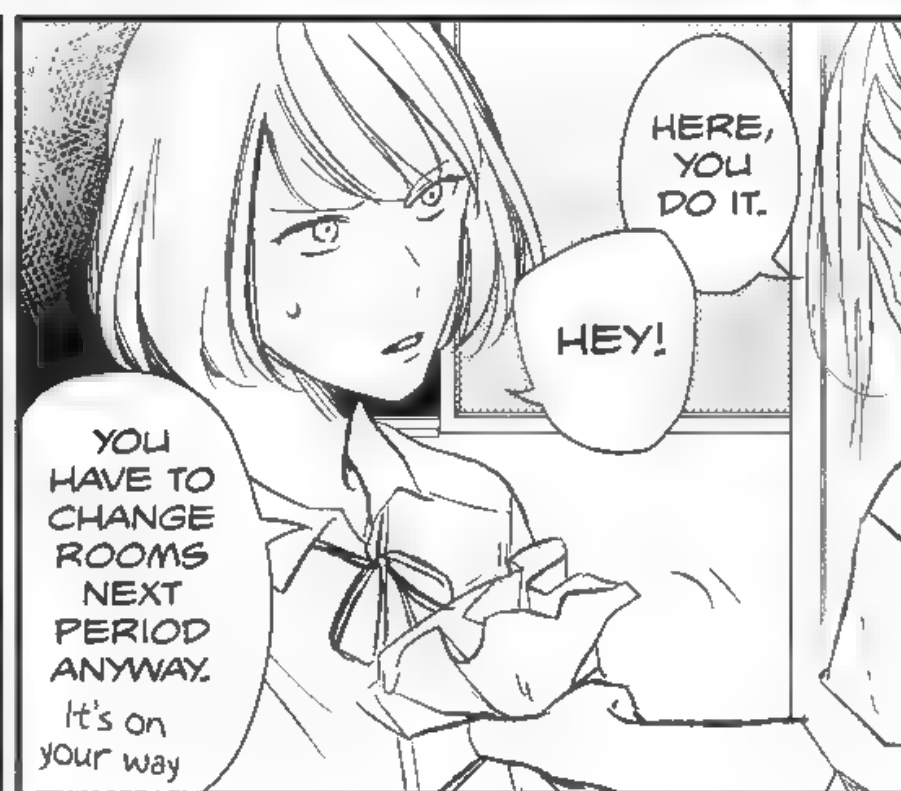
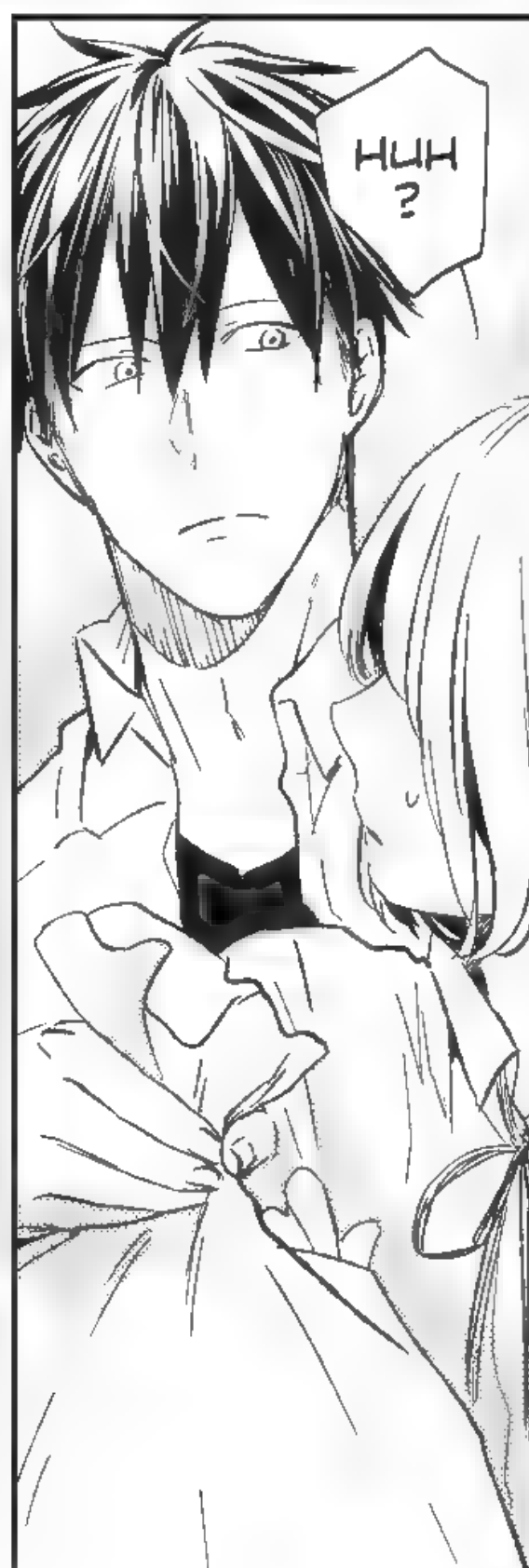
YEAH!

I  
GUESS  
EVEN  
FOR  
A GUY  
LIKE  
HIM...

...SOME  
THINGS  
DON'T  
WORK  
OUT.

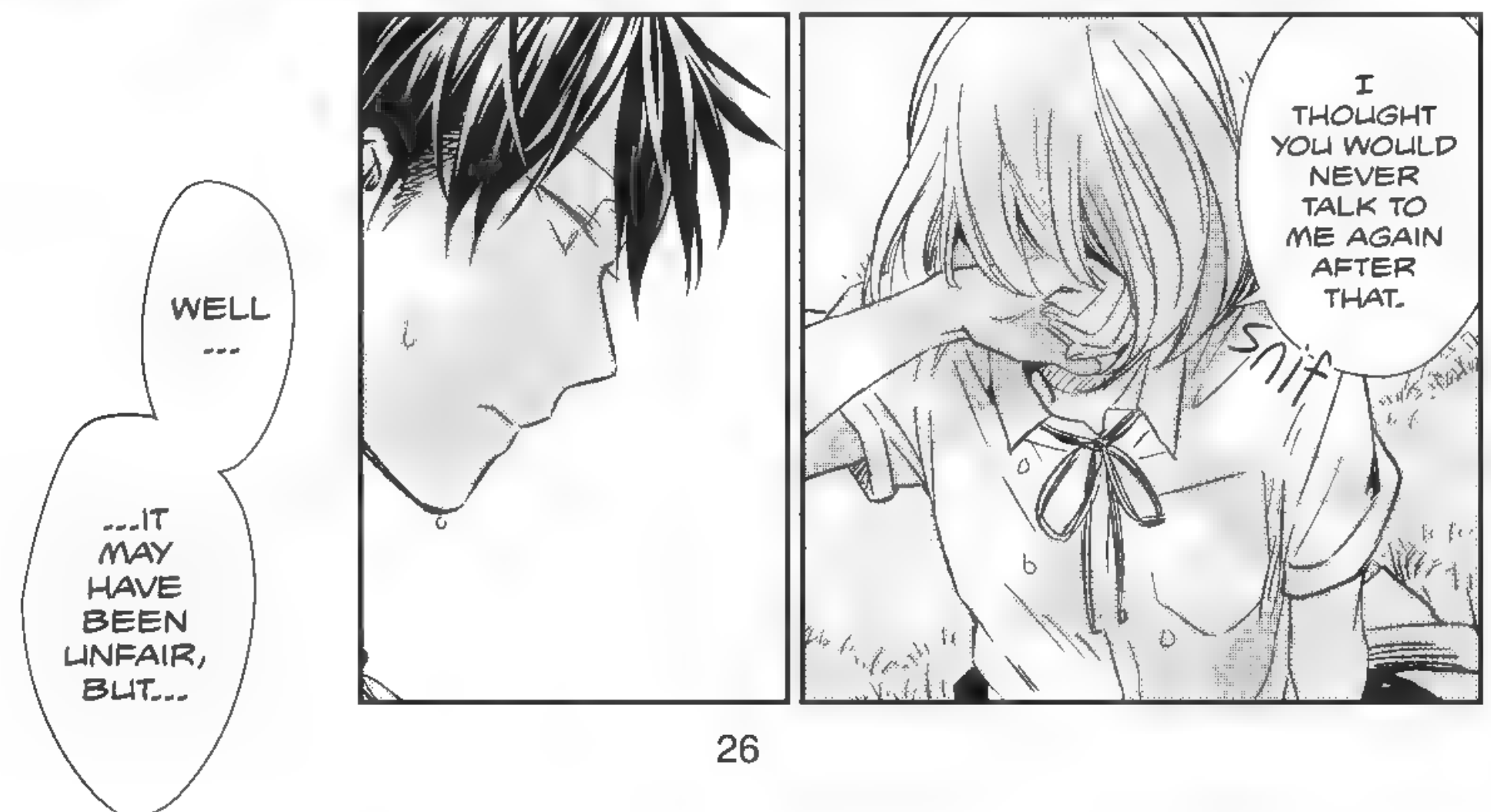
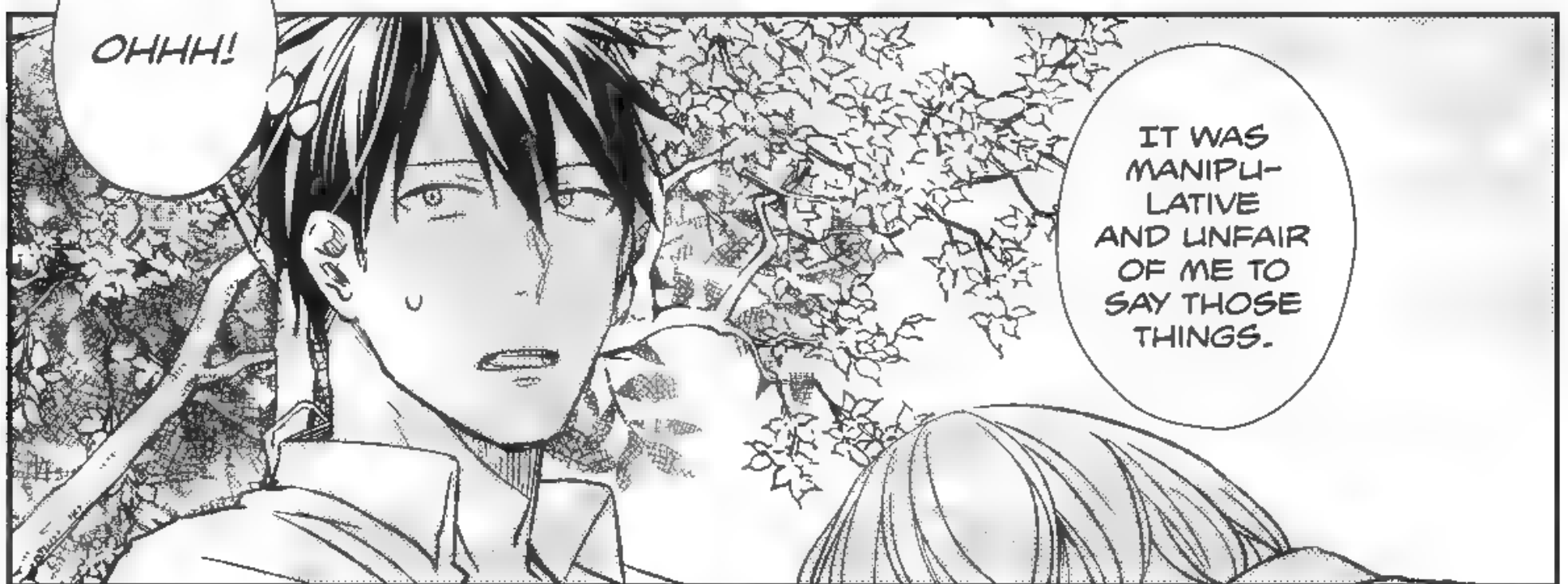
...WHAT  
TO DO  
ABOUT  
THESE  
FEELINGS.





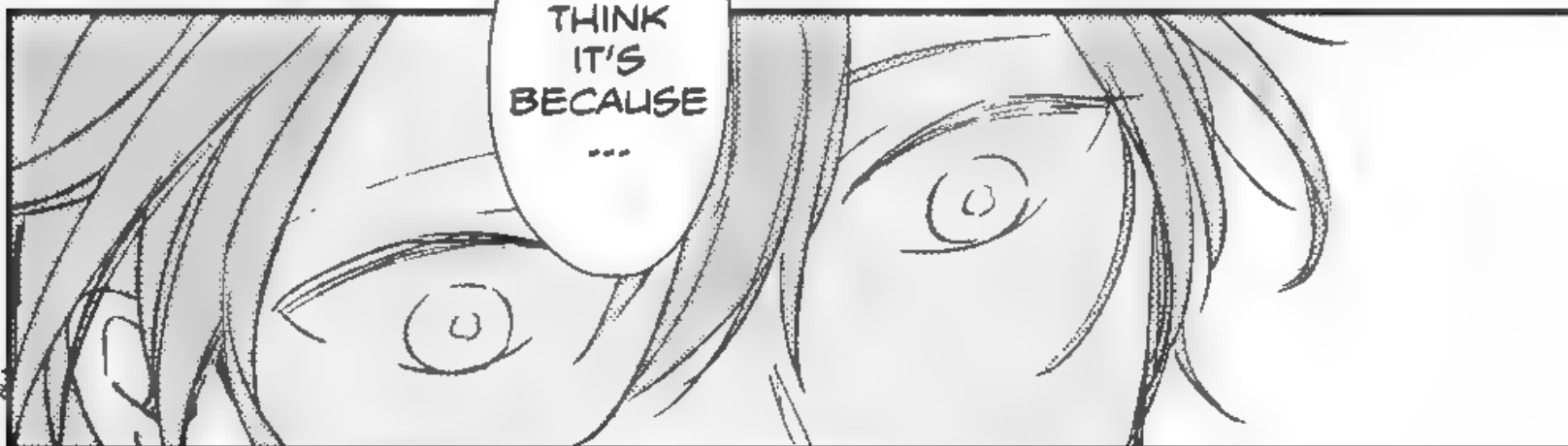
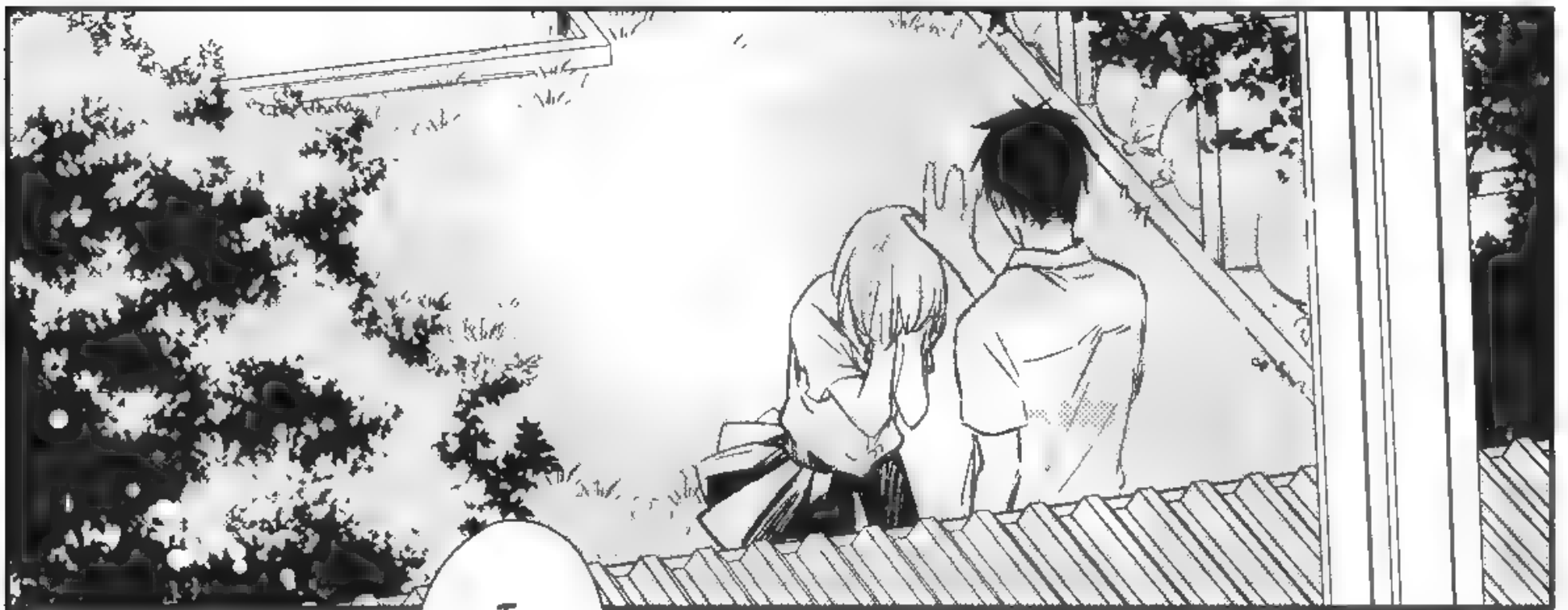








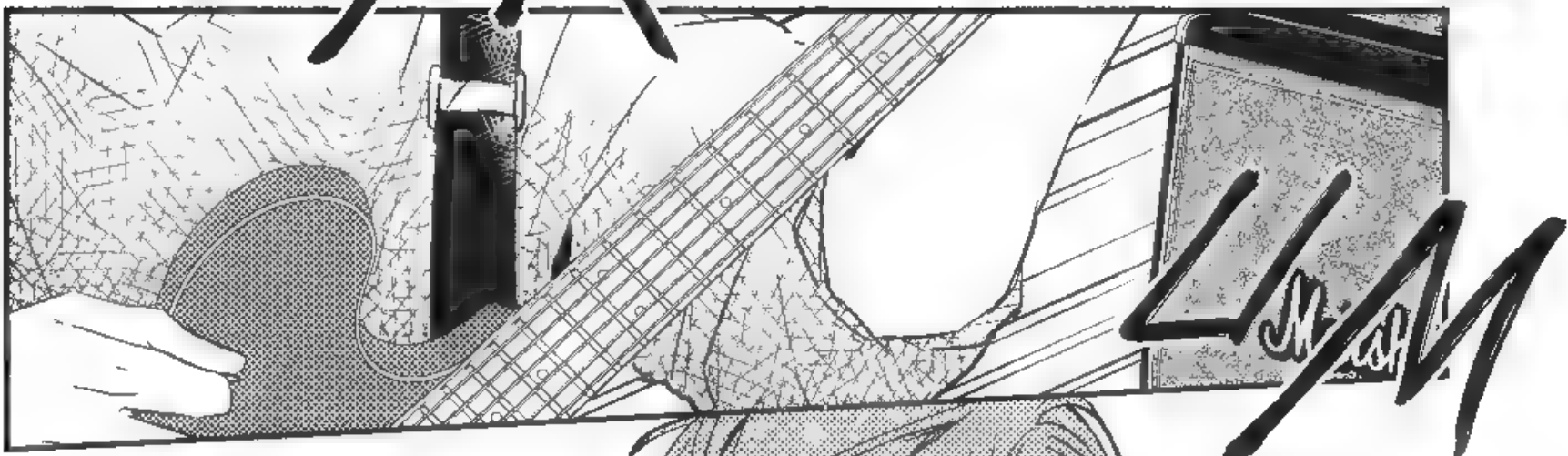
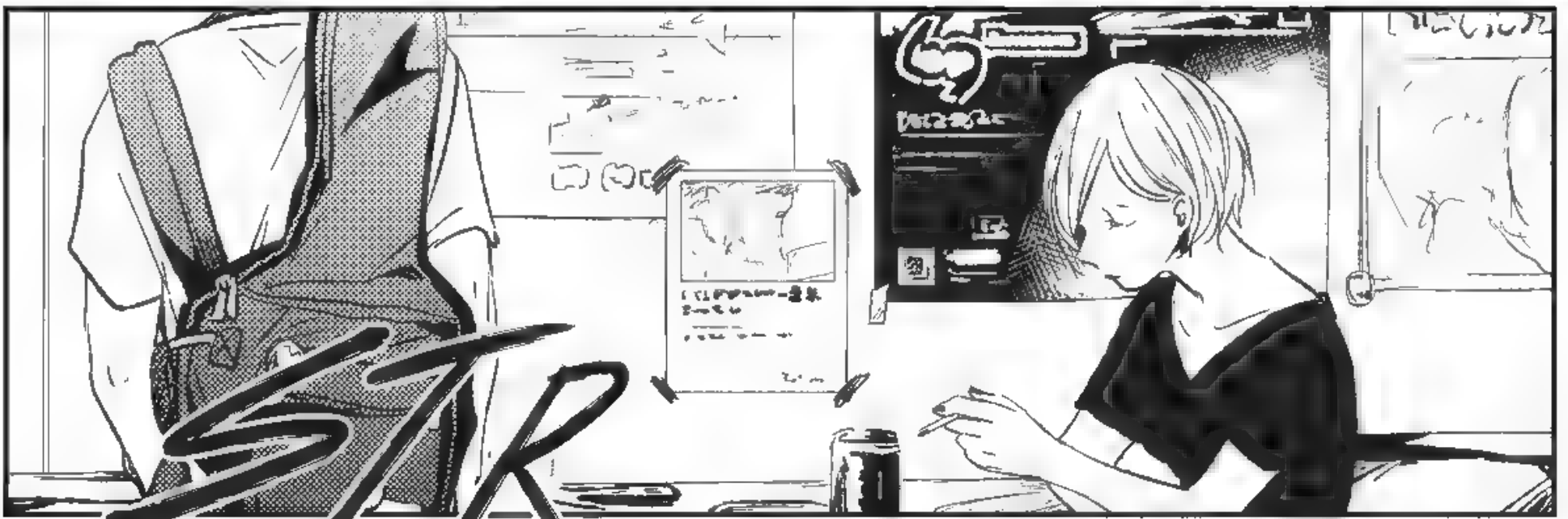








WHAT DO  
I WANT  
TO GET  
ACROSS  
TO THEM?





...GETTING  
GOOD.

MAFLYU'S  
---

ALL  
OF A  
SUD-  
DEN...

...HE  
STARTED  
MAKING  
PROGRESS  
AT A PACE  
THAT TOOK  
US ALL BY  
SURPRISE.





HE'S  
GOT A  
REAL  
TALENT  
...

...FOR  
FALLING  
ASLEEP  
WHILE  
HOLDING  
ON TO  
THAT  
GLITAR.

HE WAS  
SLEEPING  
SCRUNCHED  
INTO A  
LITTLE BALL,  
QUIET AS A  
MOUSE...



LITTLE MOUSE!

JUST  
LIKE  
THAT  
DAY WE  
FIRST  
MET.



TWO  
MONTHS  
HAVE  
ALREADY  
GONE  
BY  
SINCE  
THEN.













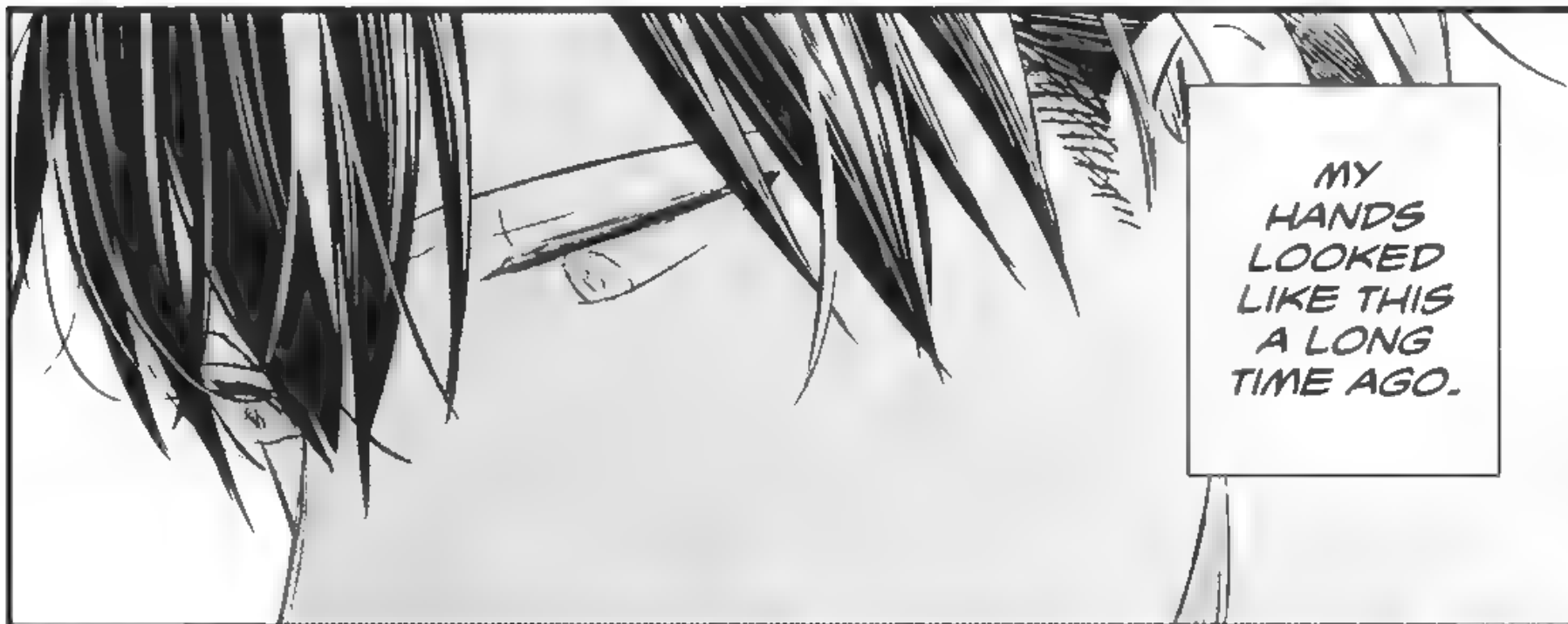
A  
POPPED  
BLISTER.  
THAT  
ONE'S  
NEW.

HIS  
HAND  
...



THE  
TIPS  
OF HIS  
FINGERS  
...

...ARE  
TOUGHEN-  
ING UP,  
FORMING  
CALLOUSES  
LIKE A  
REAL  
MUSICIAN'S.



MY  
HANDS  
LOOKED  
LIKE THIS  
A LONG  
TIME AGO.



UM...





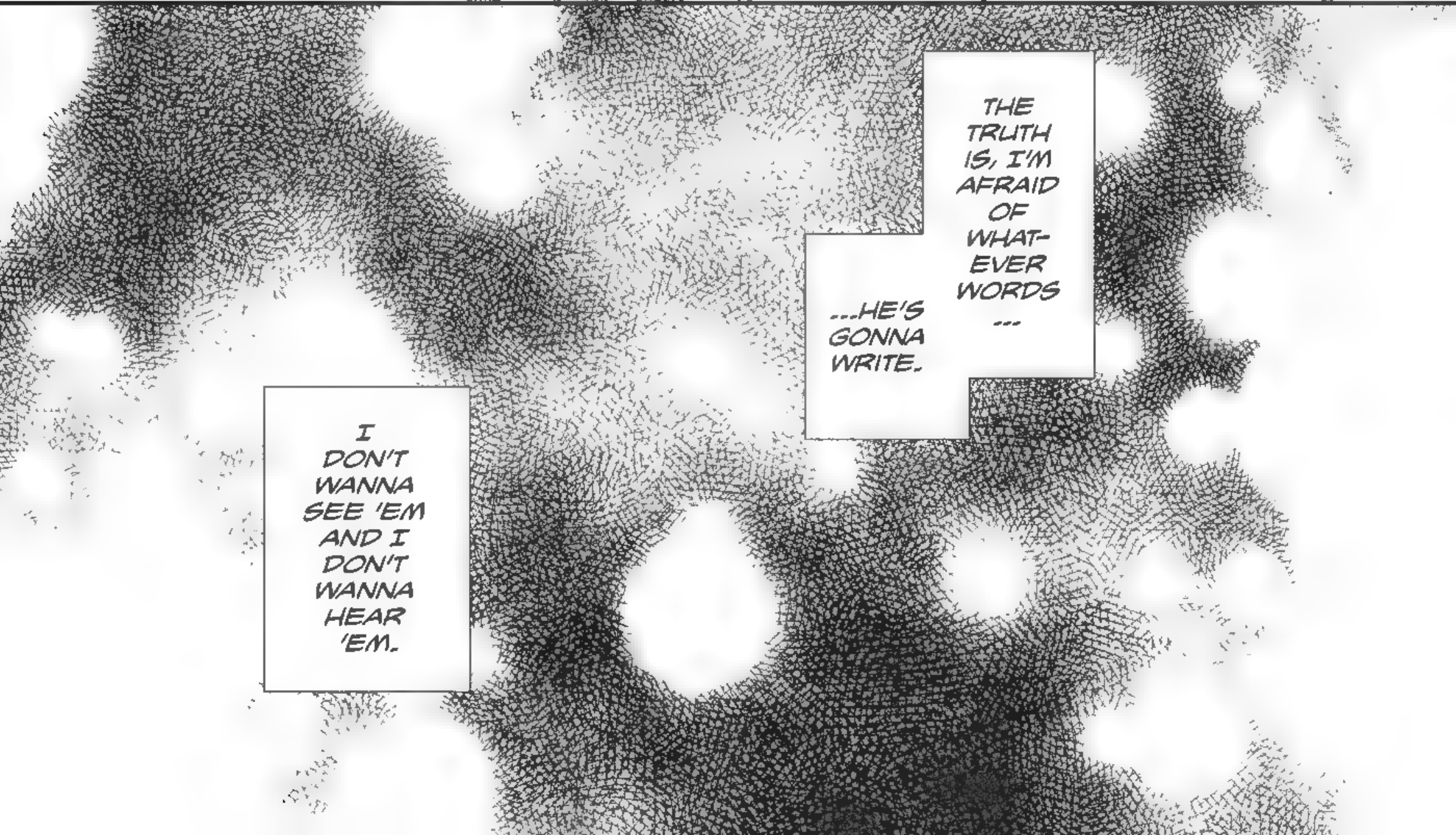


THERE'S  
STILL  
TIME,  
SO...

JUST  
KEEP  
AT IT.



OKAY.



THE  
TRUTH  
IS, I'M  
AFRAID  
OF  
WHAT-  
EVER  
WORDS  
---

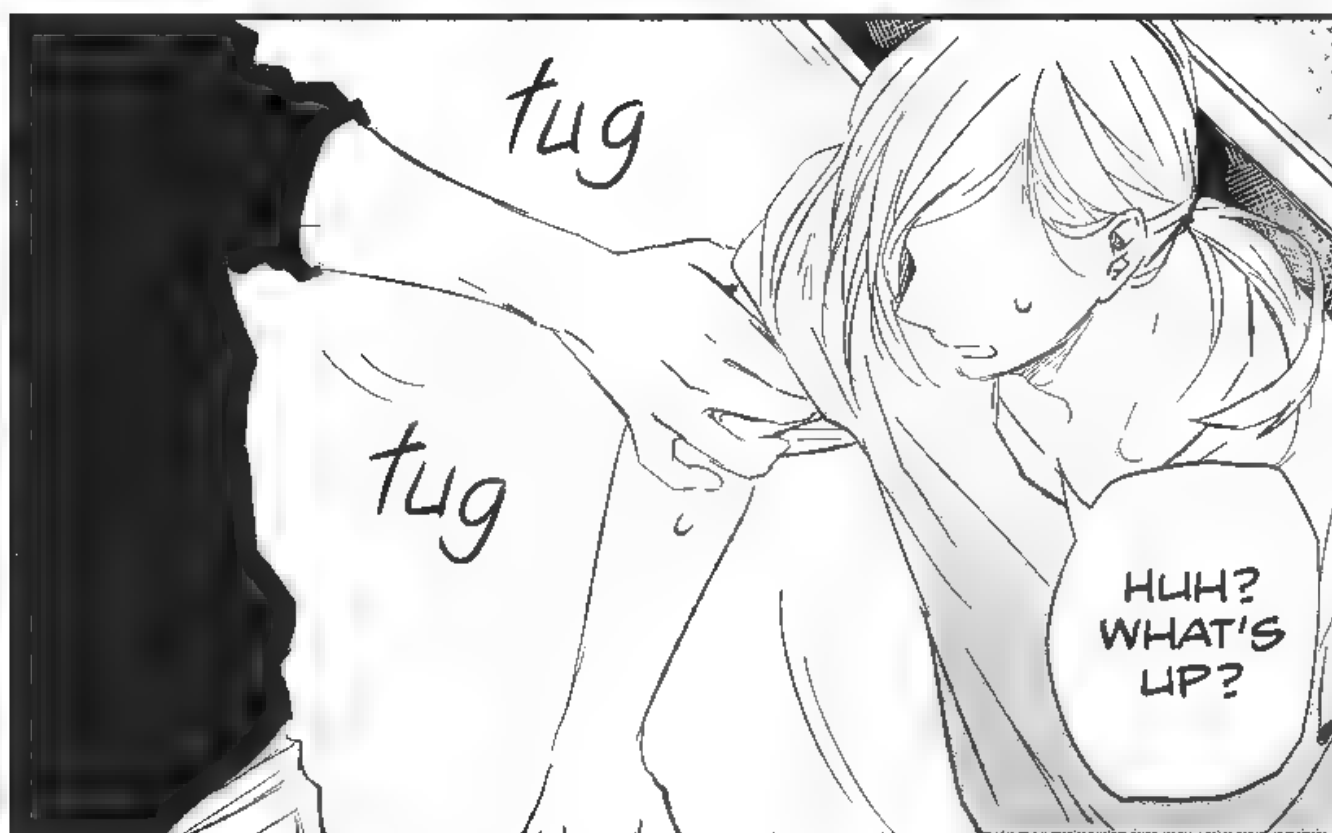
---HE'S  
GONNA  
WRITE.

I  
DON'T  
WANNA  
SEE 'EM  
AND I  
DON'T  
WANNA  
HEAR  
'EM.

I DON'T  
WANT  
TO HEAR  
MAFLIYU  
SING ABOUT  
BEING IN  
LOVE WITH  
SOMEONE  
ELSE.



FALL-  
ING  
IN  
LOVE  
---








...MEANS  
BARING  
TO  
THEM...

...WITH  
SOME-  
ONE...

But I'm  
out of  
smokes.



...THOSE  
PARTS OF  
YOURSELF  
WHERE  
YOU'RE THE  
SOFTEST  
AND MOST  
VULNERABLE.



BUT IF  
THEY  
DIG  
THEIR  
NAILS  
IN...

WHEN THEY  
TOUCH YOU  
THERE,  
IT'S EASY  
TO GET  
SWEEPED UP  
IN THE  
FEVER.

...IT'S  
EASY  
FOR  
THEM TO  
BREAK  
THE SKIN.

LIENO-  
YAMA'S  
LOVE...

...IS A  
TIME  
BOMB  
THAT  
COULD  
BLOW  
THE BAND  
APART.





Shogo Itaya (17)

176 cm

(Second-year high school student)

Birthday: 5/20 Sign: Taurus

Blood Type: O

Soccer Club, Forward

Likes all ball sports.

(Soccer, basketball, baseball, volleyball,  
tennis, handball, etc.)

Music freak.



# Itaya's True Calling





given

by Natsuki Kizu

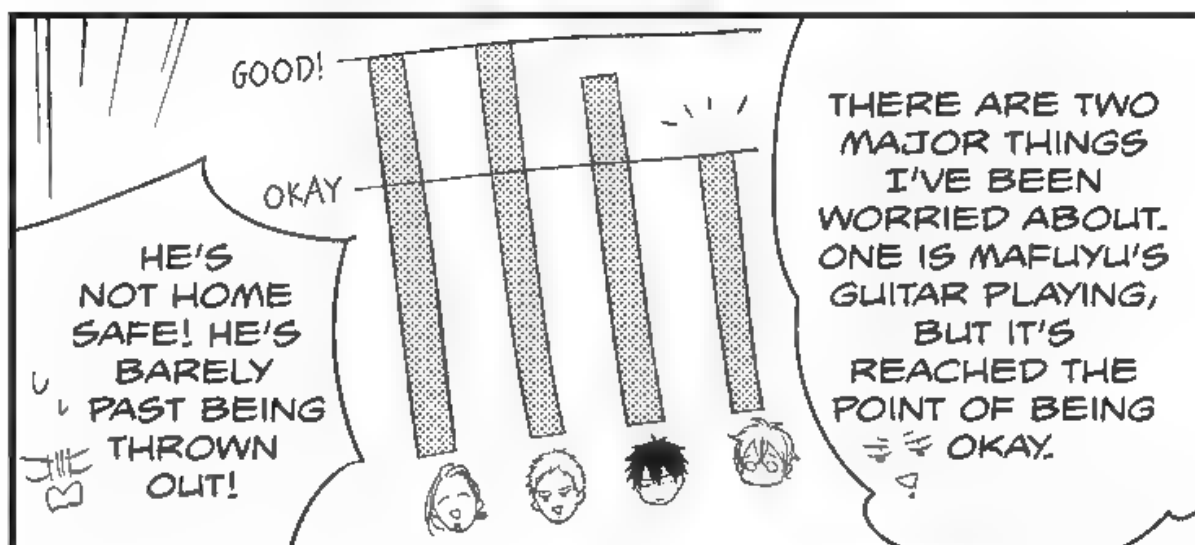
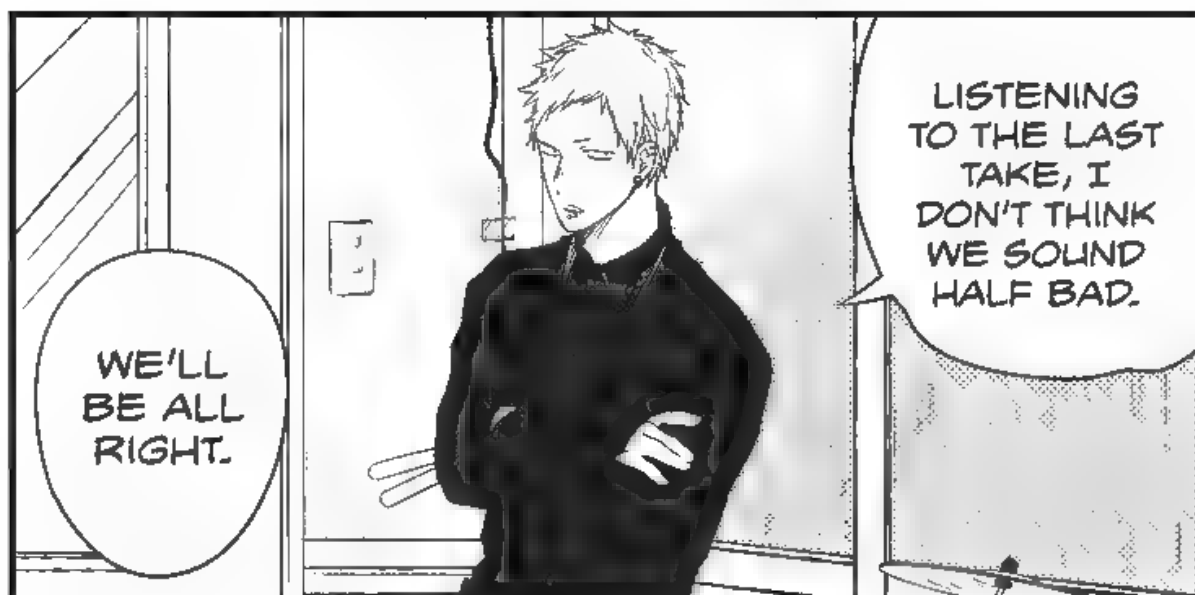
# chapter 8

given











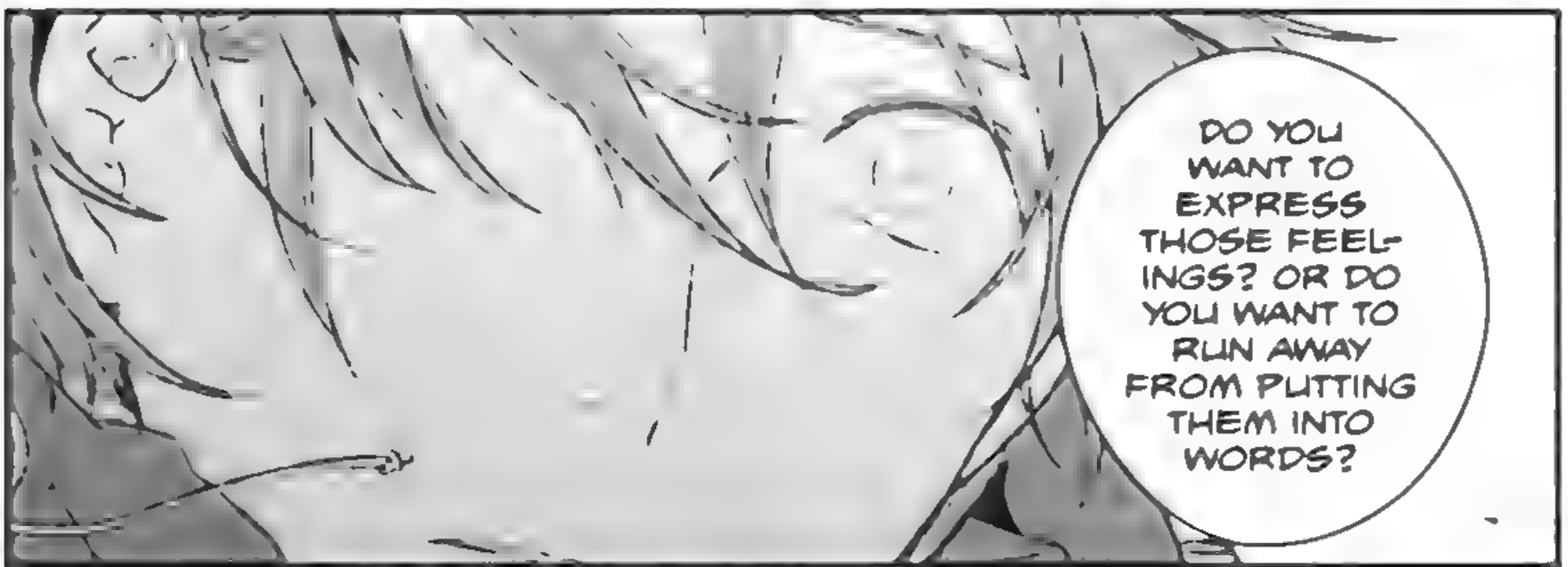








IF YOU  
DON'T COME  
TO TERMS WITH  
YOUR PAST,  
YOU WON'T BE  
ABLE TO WRITE  
THOSE LYRICS.  
YOU NEED TO  
MAKE A  
DECISION.



DO YOU  
WANT TO  
EXPRESS  
THOSE FEEL-  
INGS? OR DO  
YOU WANT TO  
RUN AWAY  
FROM PUTTING  
THEM INTO  
WORDS?









I  
KNOW  
WHAT  
AKIHIKO'S  
TRYING  
TO DO.



ALL  
RIGHT,  
FINE!



THE  
BAND'S  
CURRENT  
SITUATION  
IS LIKE  
THIS.

The Game  
of Life

Go Back 2 Spaces

Go Back 1 Space

Lose a Turn



Sigh

...GOING  
ONE STEP  
FORWARD  
AND ONE  
STEP BACK,  
WITH THE  
GOAL RIGHT  
IN FRONT  
OF US.



...A BAD  
LOSS OR  
A BIG  
WIN!

THERE'S  
ONE  
SMALL  
STEP  
BETWEEN  
...

Go Back 2 Spaces



RIGHT  
NOW IT  
FEELS  
LIKE...

...WE'RE  
SPINNING  
OUR  
WHEELS...



**MY  
EAR'S  
ITCHY,  
DAMMIT!**

HARUKI,  
THE  
LIGHT'S  
GREEN.

AND  
SUDDENLY  
HE CALLS  
ME  
"HARU"  
!!!



AND YET,  
DESPITE  
ALL THAT,  
AKIHIKO'S  
SERIOUSLY  
AIMING  
TO WIN.



"LIGHT  
A FIRE  
UNDER  
HIS  
ASS."



WHEN  
AKIHIKO  
SAID WE  
SHOULD  
STOP  
REHEARS-  
ING...

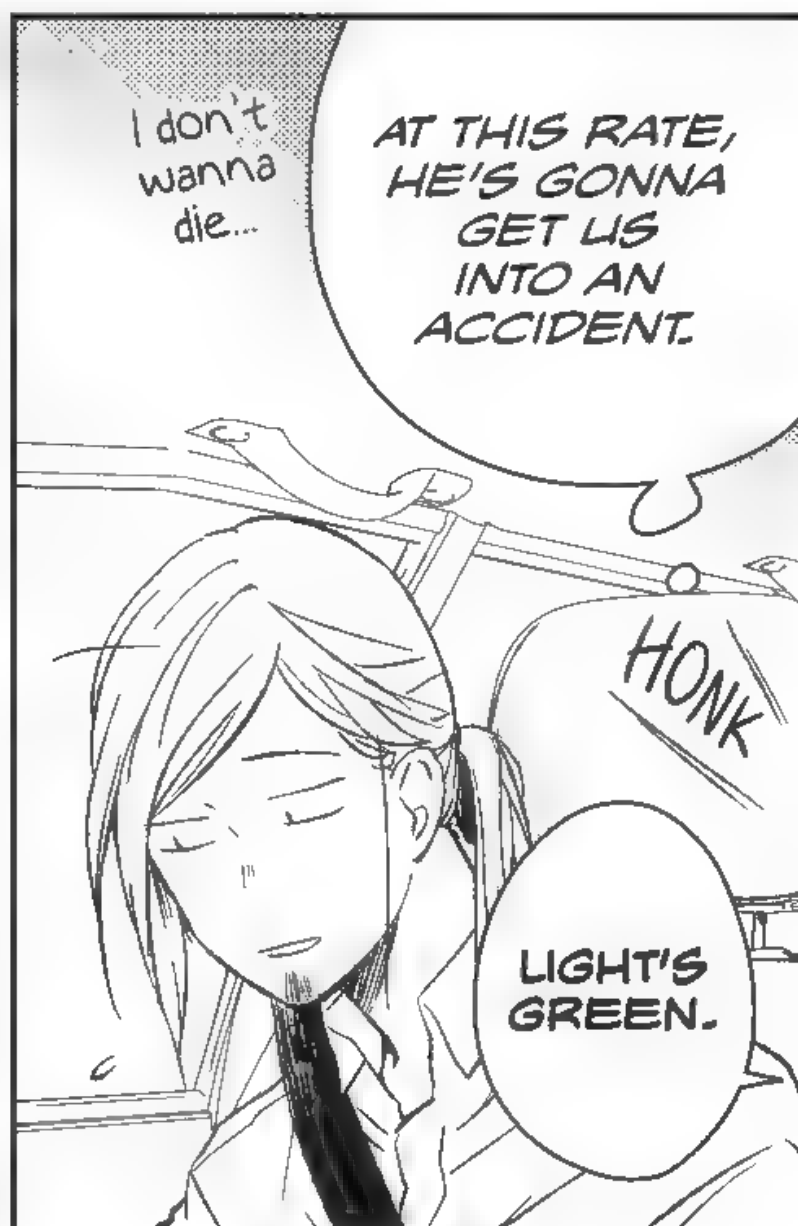
...I  
THINK  
IT WAS  
BECAUSE  
OF YOU.



VROOM

UECCHI  
...

YES?



I don't  
wanna  
die...

AT THIS RATE,  
HE'S GONNA  
GET US  
INTO AN  
ACCIDENT.

HONK

LIGHT'S  
GREEN.



DAMN  
IT...

SINCE  
YOU CAN  
PLAY SO  
WELL,  
OTHER  
PEOPLE  
MAY NOT  
NOTICE,  
BUT...

HUH  
?

...TO  
ANYONE WHO  
KNOWS YOU,  
IT'S OBVIOUS  
YOU'RE OFF  
YOUR GAME.  
PART OF IT IS  
PROBABLY  
BECAUSE  
YOU'RE  
DISTRACTED  
BY MAFLYU.

BUT I  
ALSO  
WONDER  
IF YOU'RE  
GETTING  
COM-  
PLACENT.

AKIHIKO  
THINKS  
...

I'M  
BEING  
MANIPLI-  
LATED  
TOO.

...THAT'S  
NOT  
GOOD  
ENOUGH.

AND  
I...

WHAT'S  
WRONG  
WITH  
THAT?

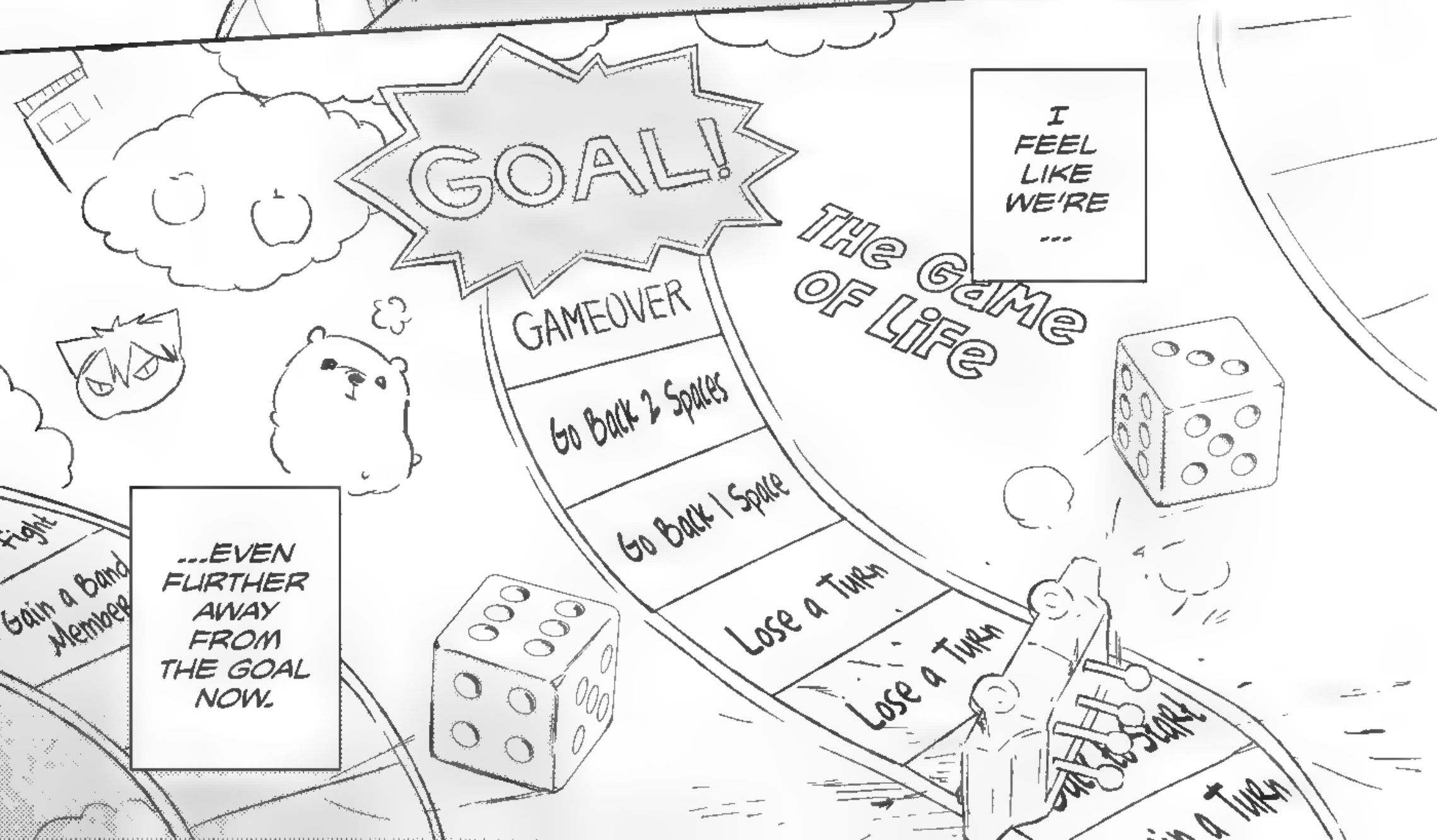
I...I'M  
JUST  
TRYING TO  
PLAY LIKE I  
ALWAYS DO.  
TO GIVE A  
CONSISTENT  
PERFOR-  
MANCE...



...THE WAY YOU'RE PLAYING RIGHT NOW...

...DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE SO FOCUSED ON MAFUYU'S SOUND THAT YOU'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION TO YOUR OWN, BUT...

...MAFUYU'S SOUND IS GOING TO SWALLOW YOURS WHOLE.



GOAL!

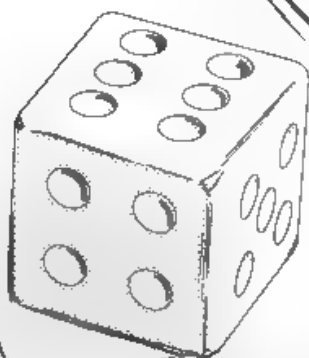
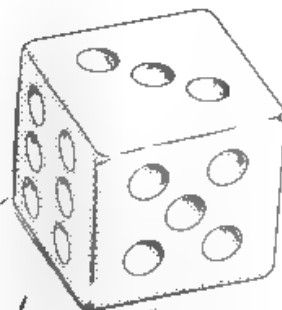
GAMEOVER

Go Back 2 Spaces

Go Back 1 Space

Lose a Turn

Lose a Turn



I FEEL LIKE WE'RE ...

...EVEN FURTHER AWAY FROM THE GOAL NOW.

Fight  
Gain a Band Member

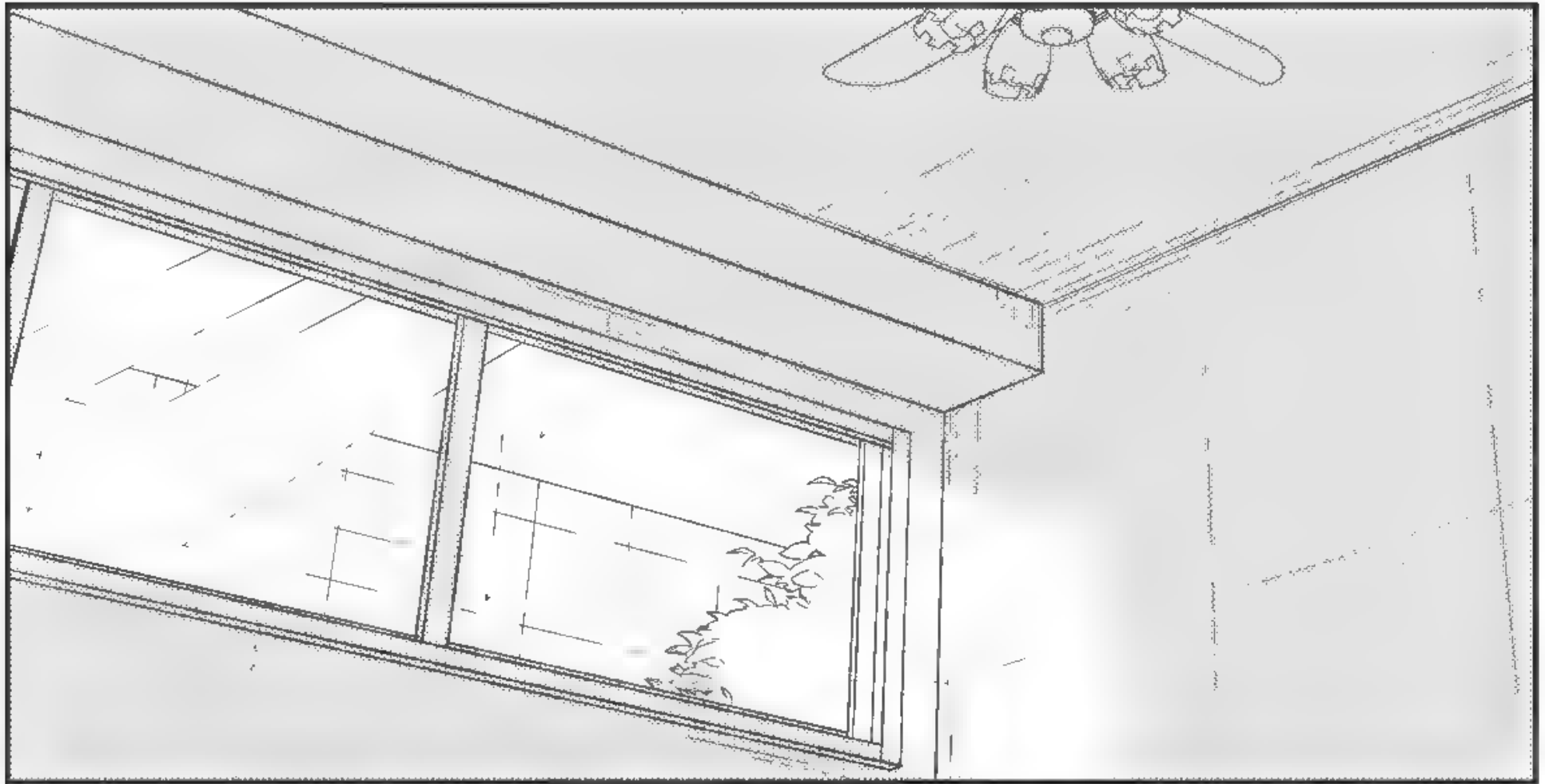




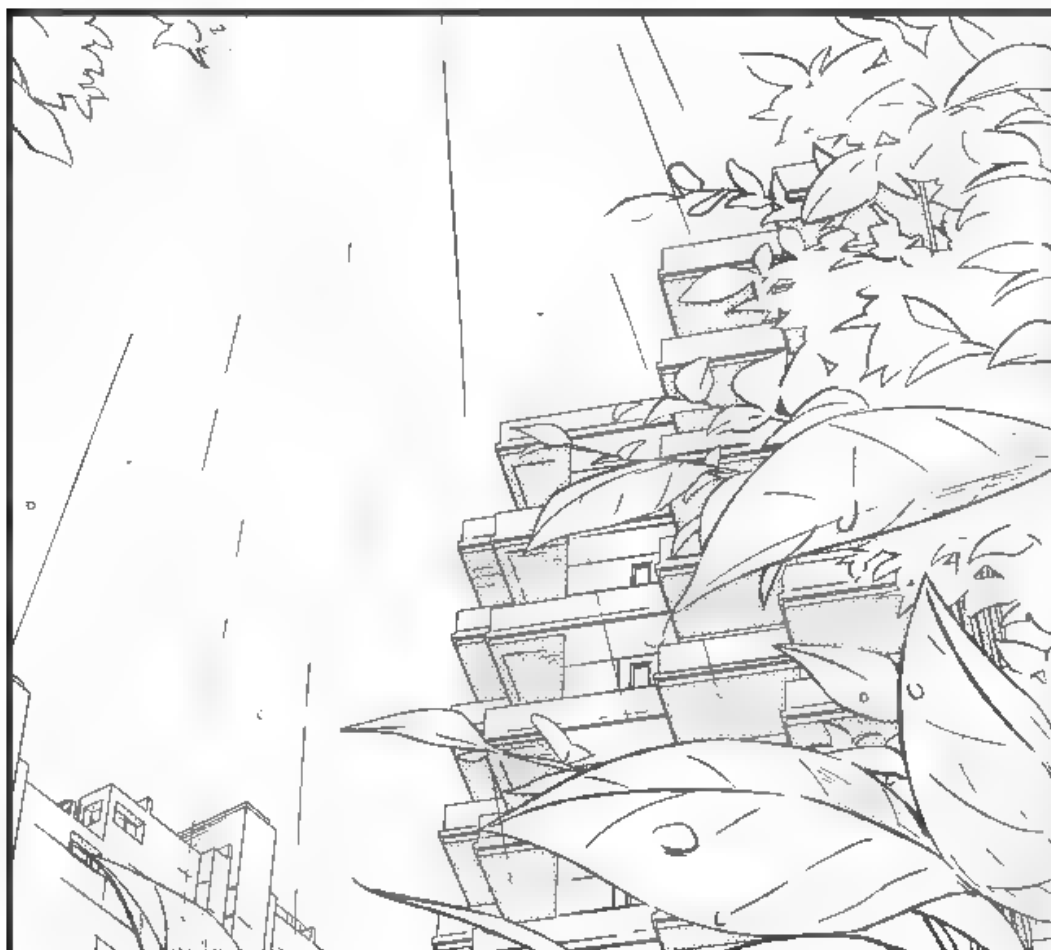
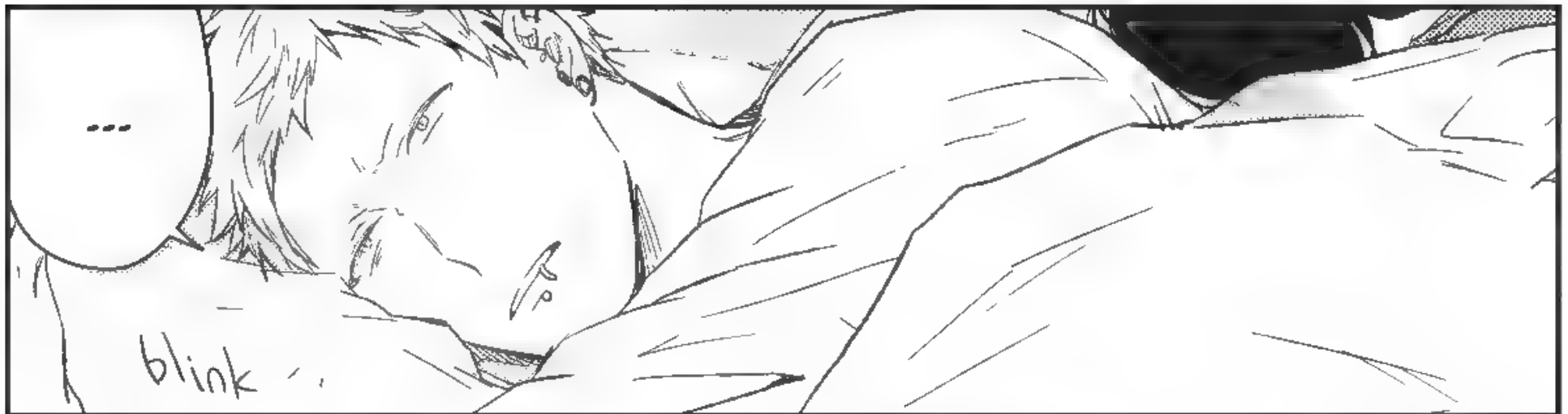
I  
ROLLED  
THE  
DICE ON  
YOUR  
BET  
ARTHUR.



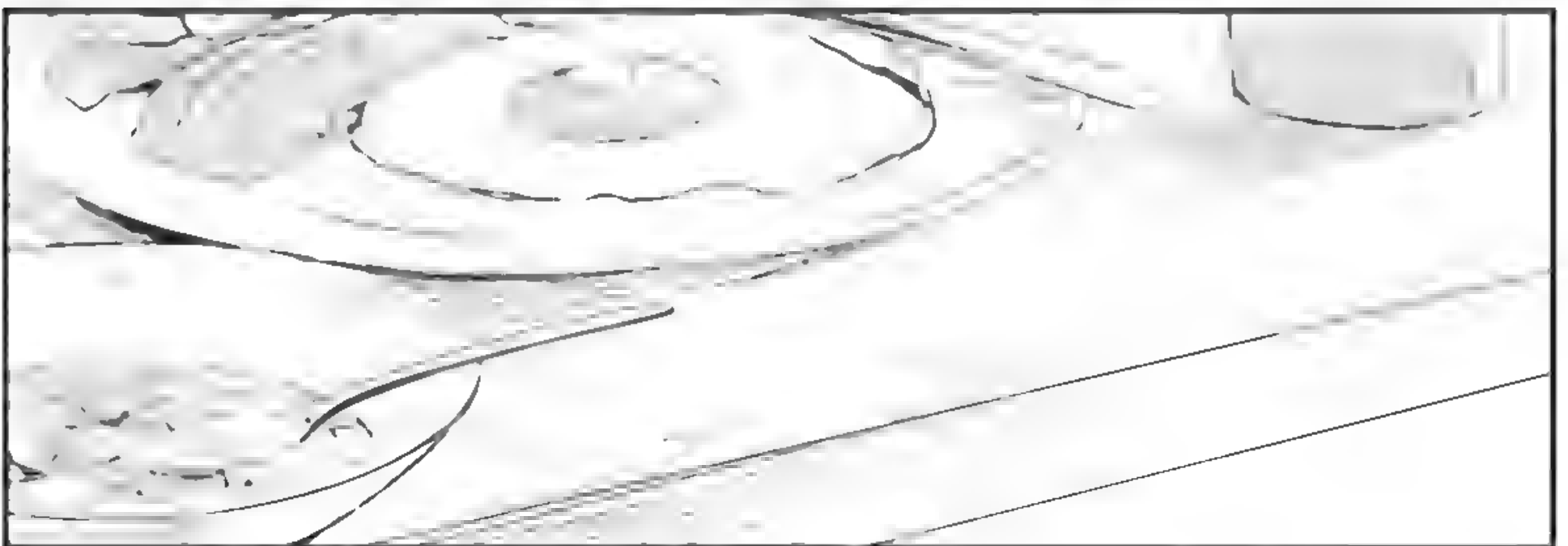
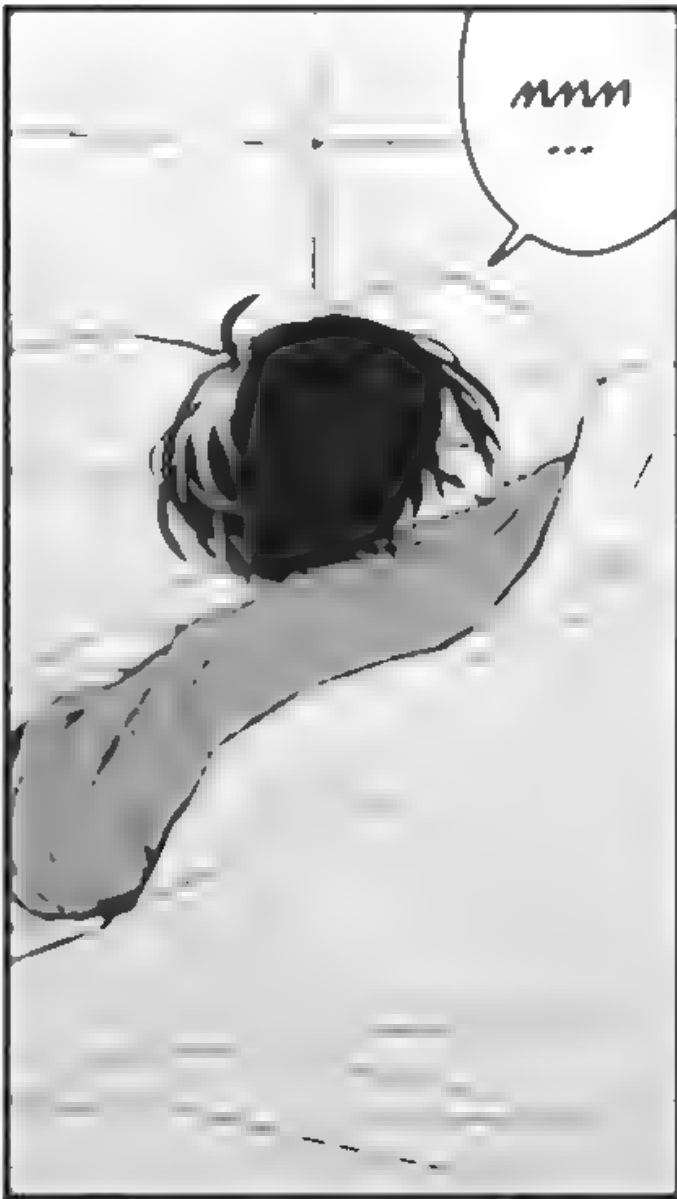
NOW  
WHAT  
ARE YOU  
GOING  
TO DO?



## Seven Days Until the Concert

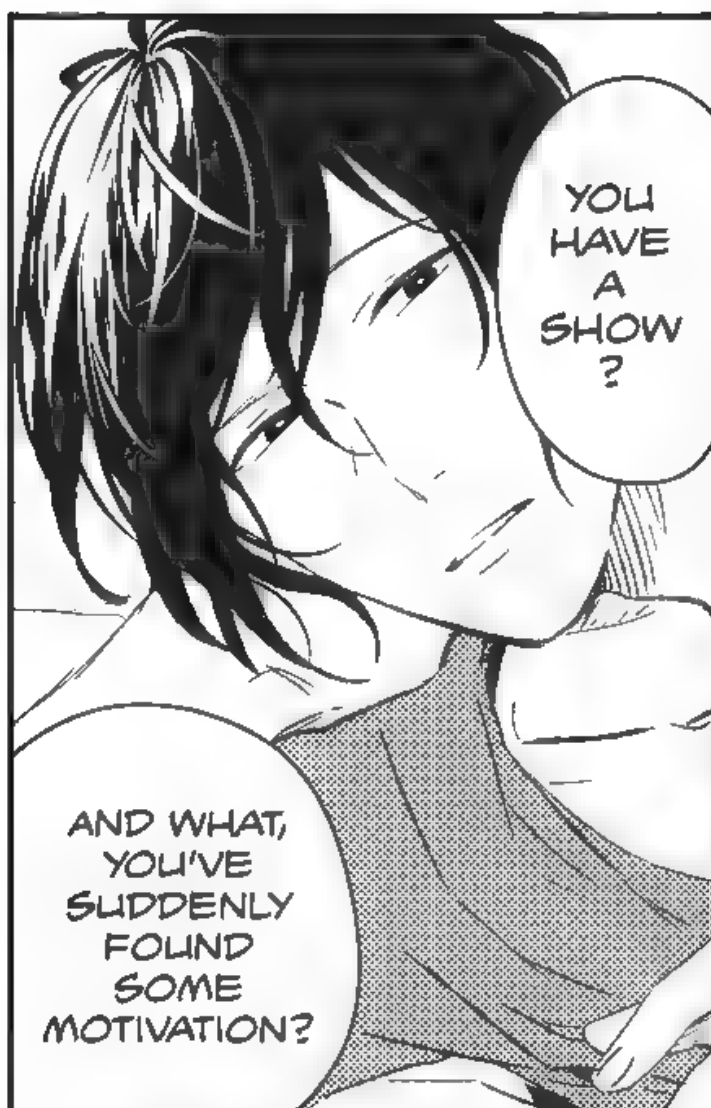












YOU  
HAVE  
A  
SHOW?

AND WHAT,  
YOU'VE  
SUDDENLY  
FOUND  
SOME  
MOTIVATION?



OH...

WHY?

SURE.

OKAY IF I  
PRACTICE  
THE DRUMS  
THIS MORN-  
ING?



DO YOU THINK  
YOU'RE GOOD  
ENOUGH TO  
SHOW ME  
NOW?



stare

...

WHAT?

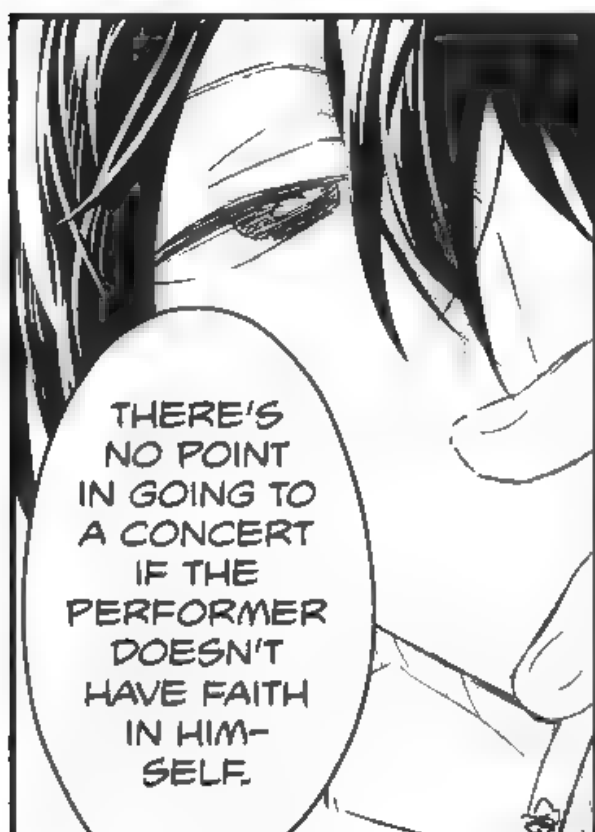


IF YOU'RE  
AT THE LEVEL  
WHERE YOU  
STILL NEED TO  
THINK ABOUT  
IT, THEN I'M  
NOT GOING.

...

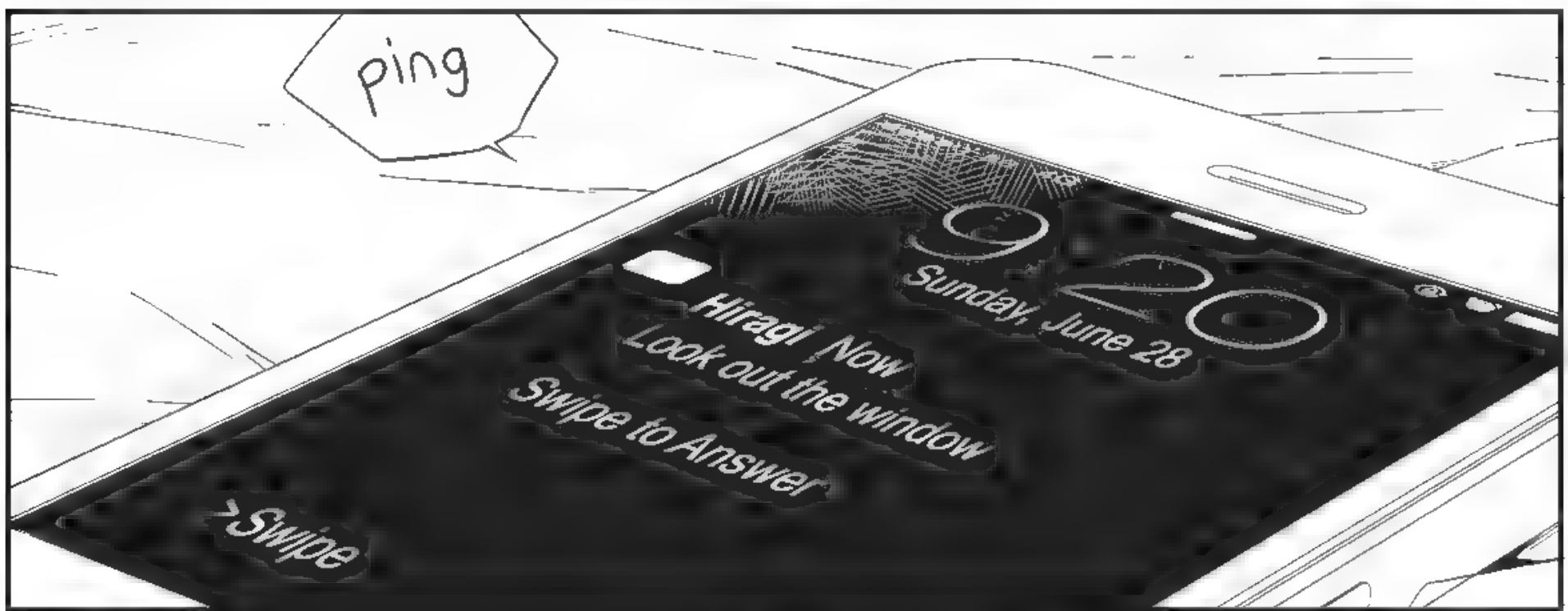
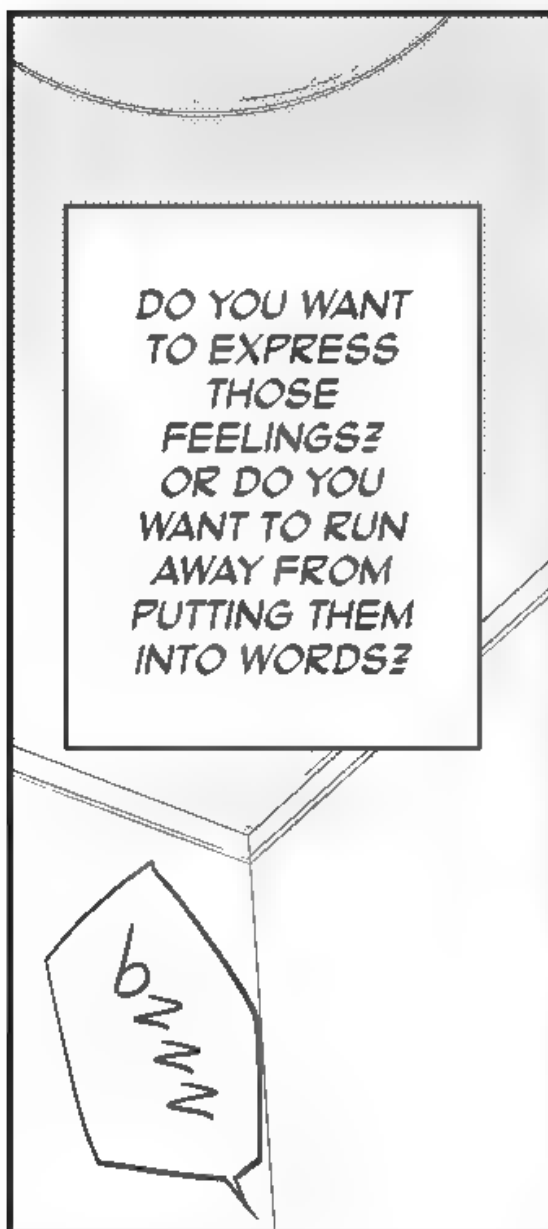


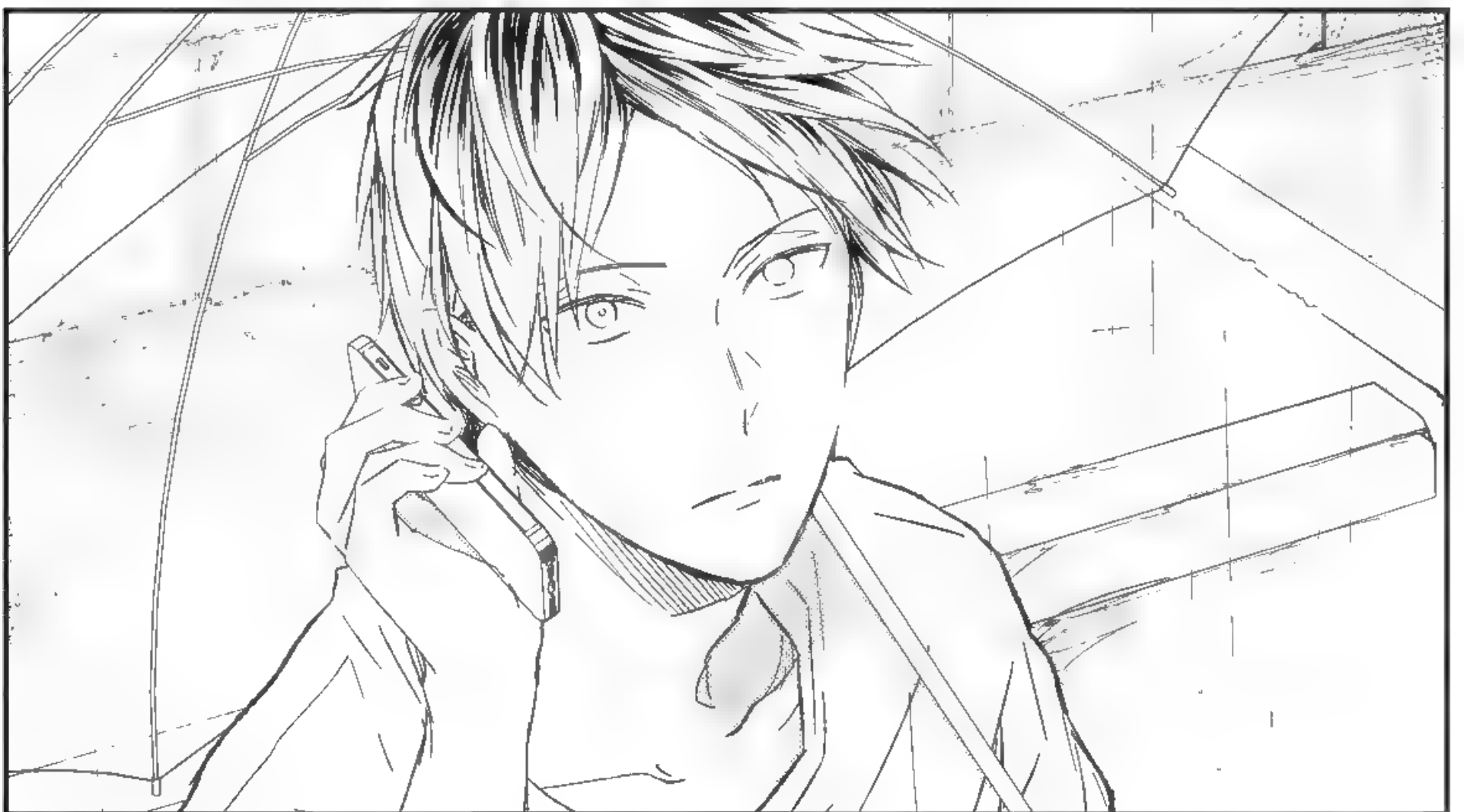
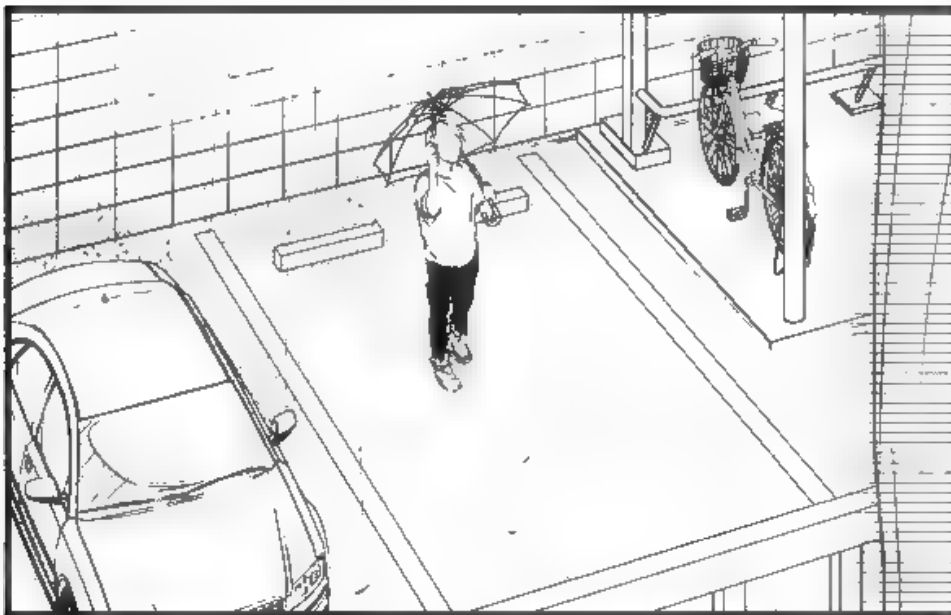
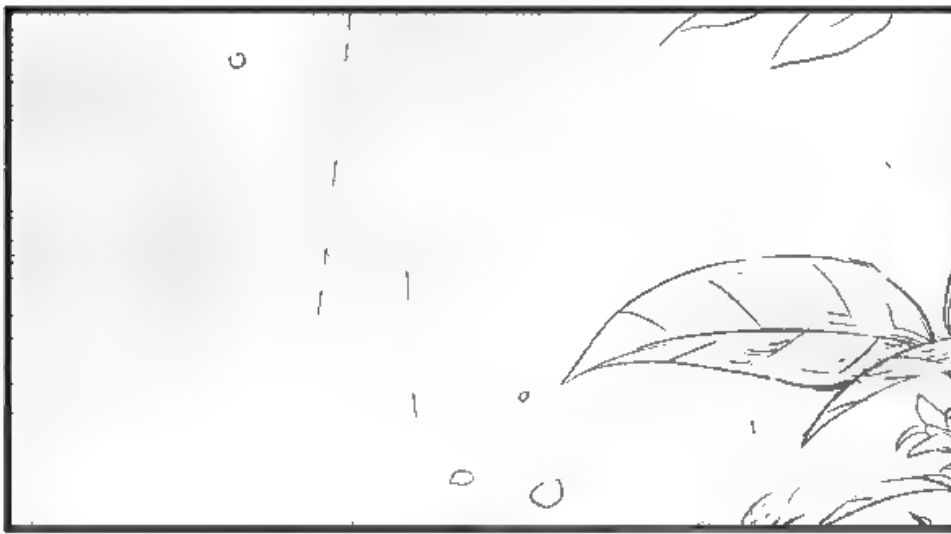
YOU  
WANNA  
COME?















# Ugetsu Murata (21)

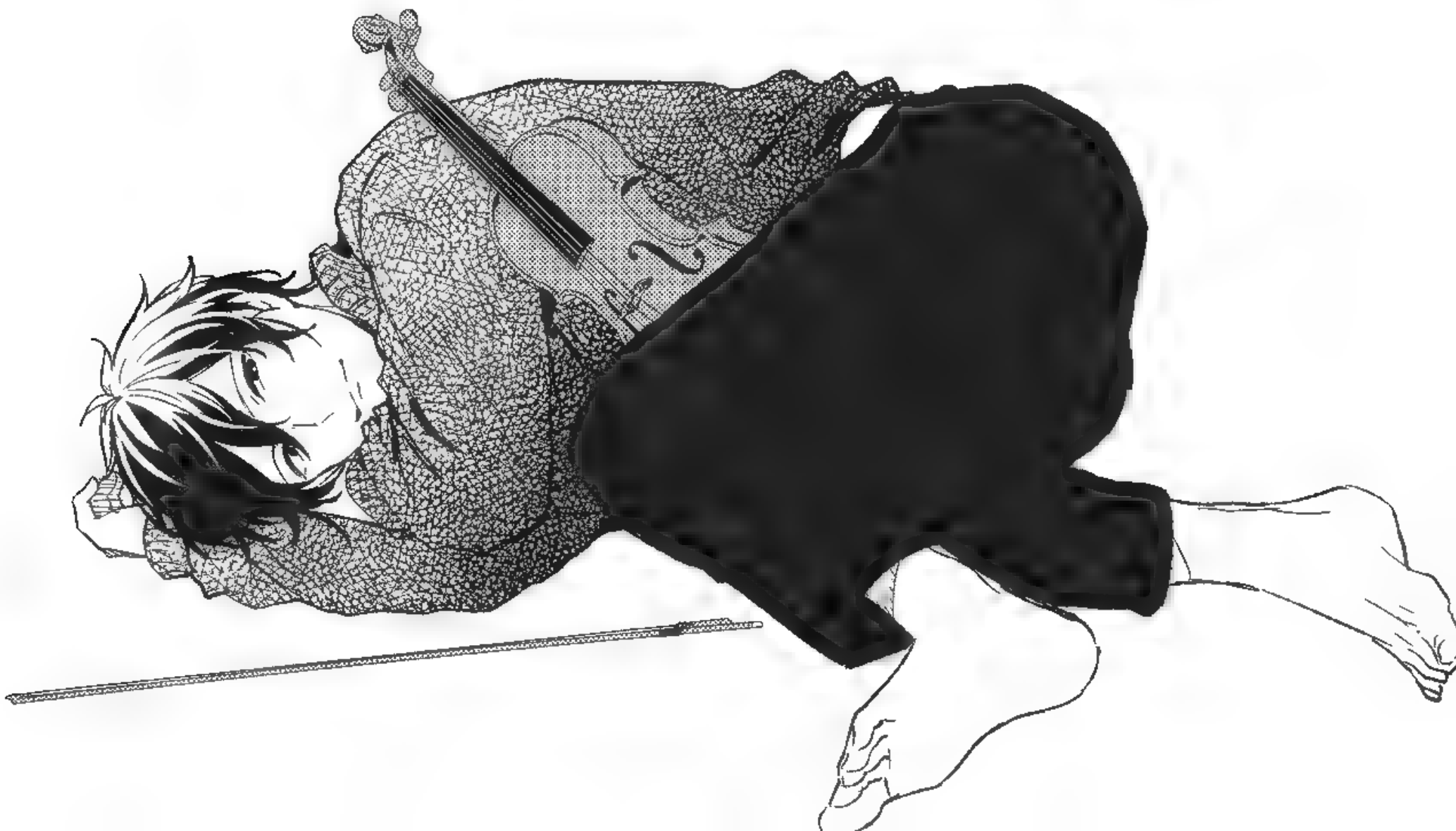
175 cm

(Akihiko's classmate)

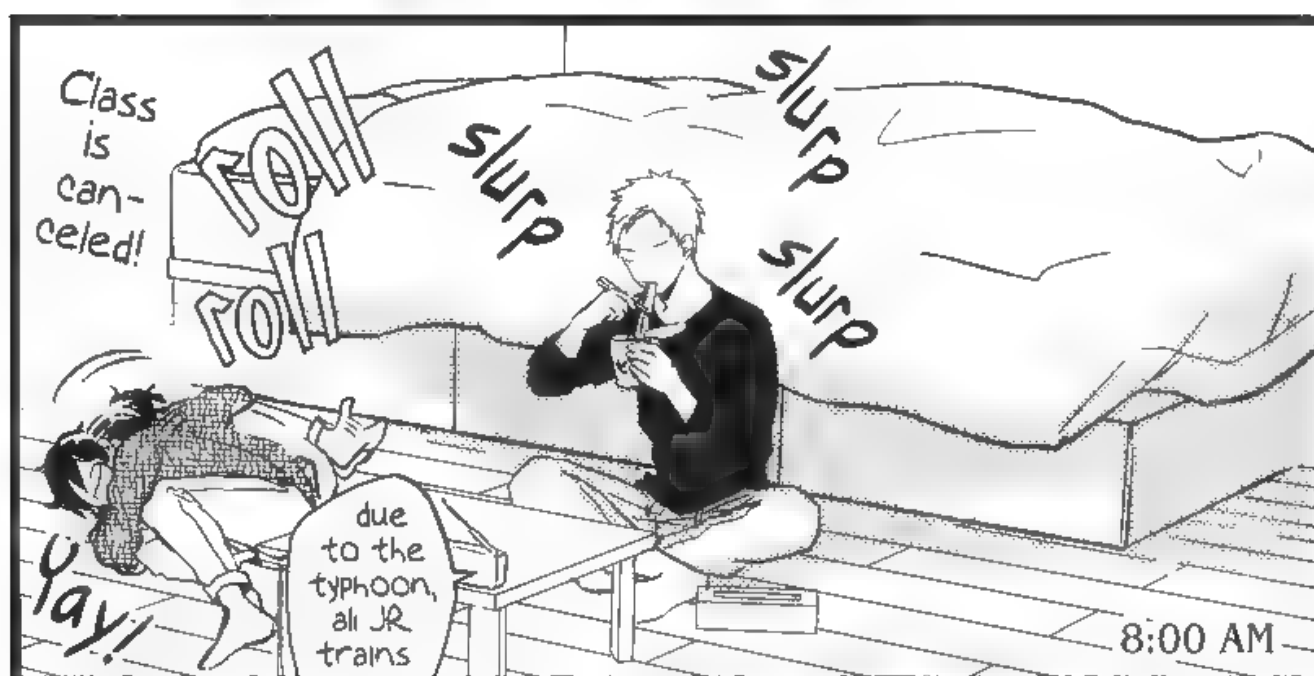
Birthday: 6/6 Sign: Gemini Blood Type: O

Violinist

Akihiko's roommate,  
but he's frequently out of the country.



# A Day in the Life (of Roommates)



given

by Natsuki Kizu







YOU  
ALWAYS  
MADE  
SURE  
TO KEEP  
YOUR  
DISTANCE  
BEFORE.

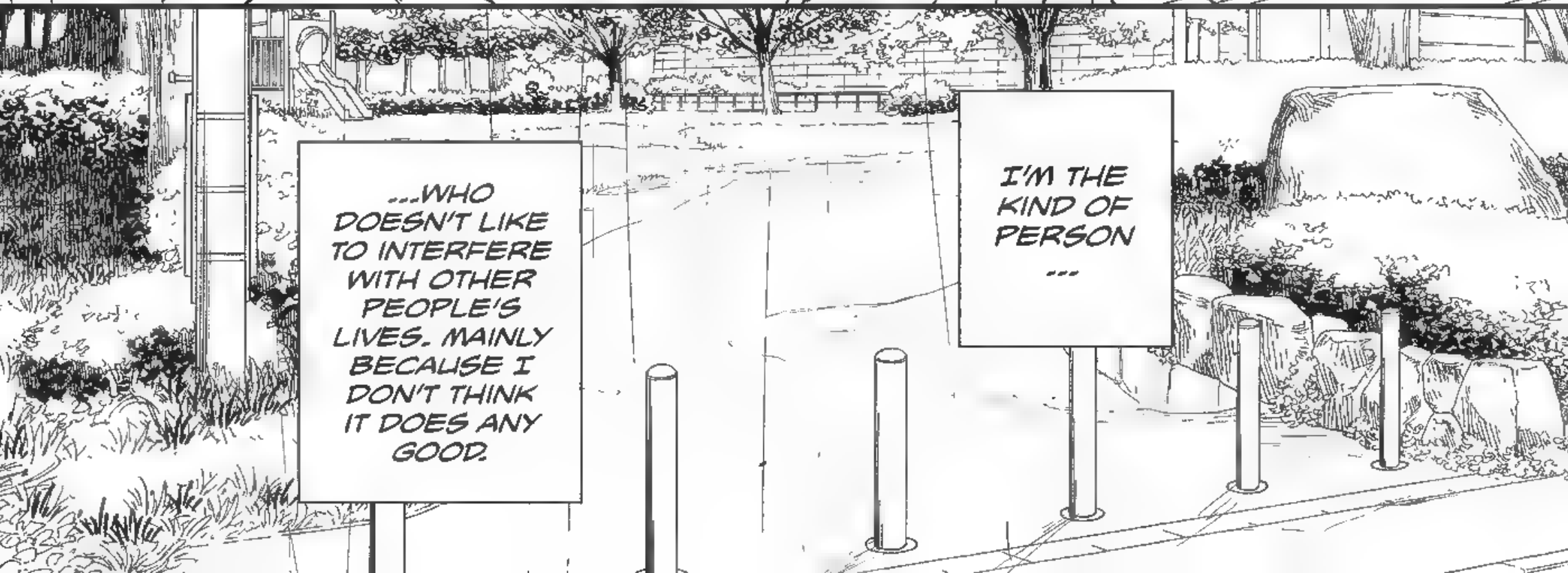


WHY  
ARE YOU  
REACHING  
OUT TO  
ME NOW?



I  
NEVER  
WANTED  
TO GET  
INVOLVED.

YOU'RE  
RIGHT.



...WHO  
DOESN'T LIKE  
TO INTERFERE  
WITH OTHER  
PEOPLE'S  
LIVES. MAINLY  
BECAUSE I  
DON'T THINK  
IT DOES ANY  
GOOD.

I'M THE  
KIND OF  
PERSON  
...







NO,  
YOU'RE  
RIGHT.  
I  
DON'T.

Gasp



I WANT  
TO BE  
FORGIVEN.

AND  
NOW  
I...

REGRET  
THAT  
TOO.

I WANT  
TO BE  
FORGIVEN  
BY  
SOMEONE,  
IT DOESN'T  
MATTER  
WHO.

# chapter 9

---

## given



MAFLIYU SATO,  
YUKI YOSHIDA,  
AND I WERE  
CHILDHOOD  
FRIENDS.

IT  
WAS  
JUST  
THE  
THREE  
OF  
US...



...WHO  
WERE BOTH  
LATCHKEY  
KIDS  
RAISED BY  
SINGLE  
MOTHERS.

ESPECIALLY  
YUKI AND  
MAFLIYU...



...UNTIL  
SHIZUSUMI  
MOVED  
INTO THE  
NEIGHBOR-  
HOOD.



...WE  
WERE  
IN OUR  
OWN  
LITTLE  
WORLD.

EVER  
SINCE  
I CAN  
REMEM-  
BER...





WITH  
ONE  
FILLING  
IN WHAT  
WAS  
MISSING  
IN THE  
OTHER.



FROM THE  
VERY START,  
IT WAS  
LIKE THEY  
WERE TWO  
HALVES OF  
A WHOLE.

IT  
WAS  
LIKE  
THEY  
WERE  
MADE  
FOR  
EACH  
OTHER.



AND  
MAFLYU  
NEEDED  
YUKI.

YUKI  
NEEDED  
MAFLYU.

OTHER  
PEOPLE  
WERE  
BAFFLED  
AS TO WHY  
THEY FIT  
TOGETHER  
SO WELL.



MAFLYU  
WAS  
QUIET,  
WELL-  
BEHAVED,  
INTRO-  
VERTED.



YUKI WAS  
ATTEN-  
TION-  
SEEKING,  
DOMINANT,  
MOODY.

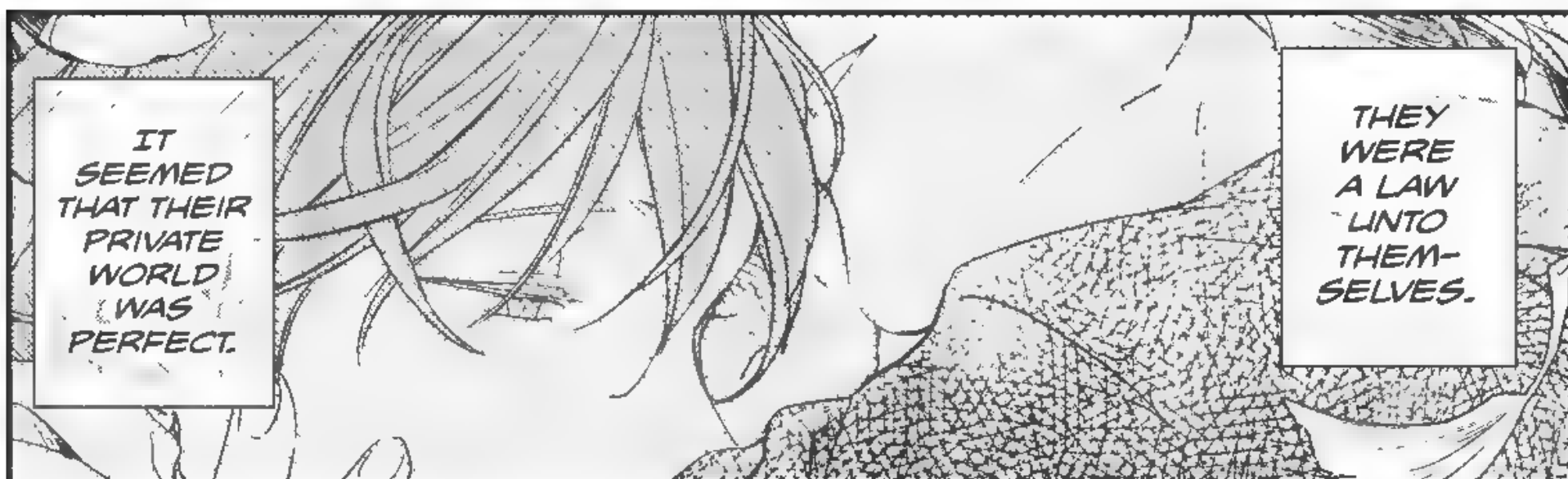




...WERE  
DRAWN  
TOGETHER  
BY A  
MAGNETIC  
FORCE.



IT  
WAS  
LIKE  
THEY...



IT  
SEEMED  
THAT THEIR  
PRIVATE  
WORLD  
WAS  
PERFECT.

THEY  
WERE  
A LAW  
UNTO  
THEM-  
SELVES.

YUKI,  
SHIZU-  
SUMI,  
AND I  
STARTED  
PLAYING  
MUSIC.



WE  
BECAME  
HIGH  
SCHOOL  
STUDENTS  
AND  
WENT TO  
DIFFER-  
ENT  
SCHOOLS.

THAT'S WHEN THE SMALL CRACKS STARTED TO FORM.

...GOT  
A JOB  
TO  
SAVE  
UP  
MONEY  
TO  
BUY A  
GUITAR.

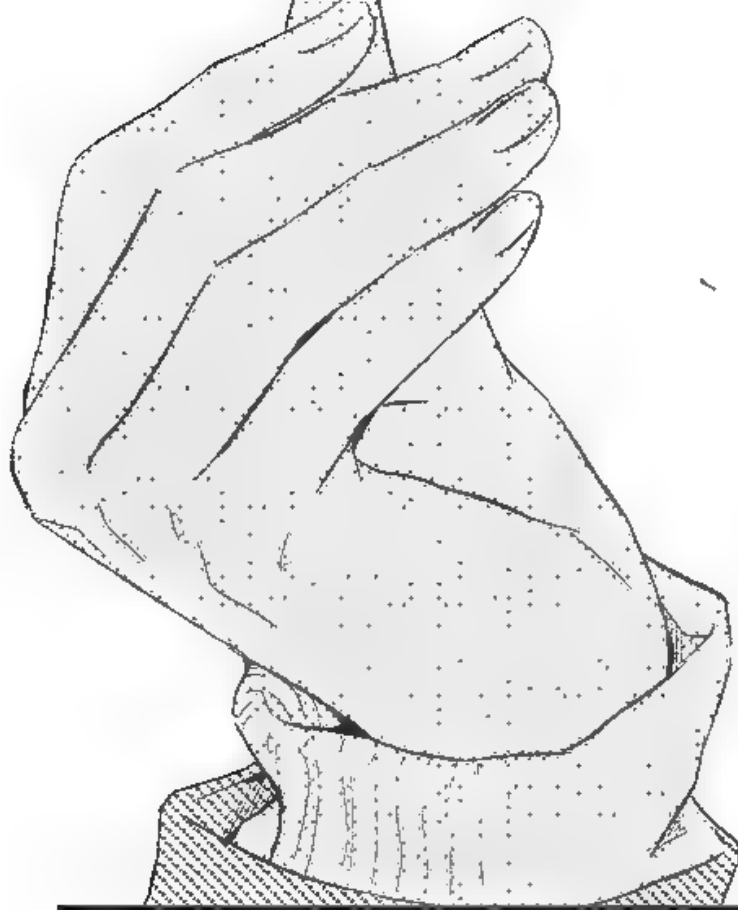


AND HE  
STARTED  
SPENDING  
THE REST  
OF HIS  
FREE TIME  
HOLED UP  
IN THE  
STUDIO.

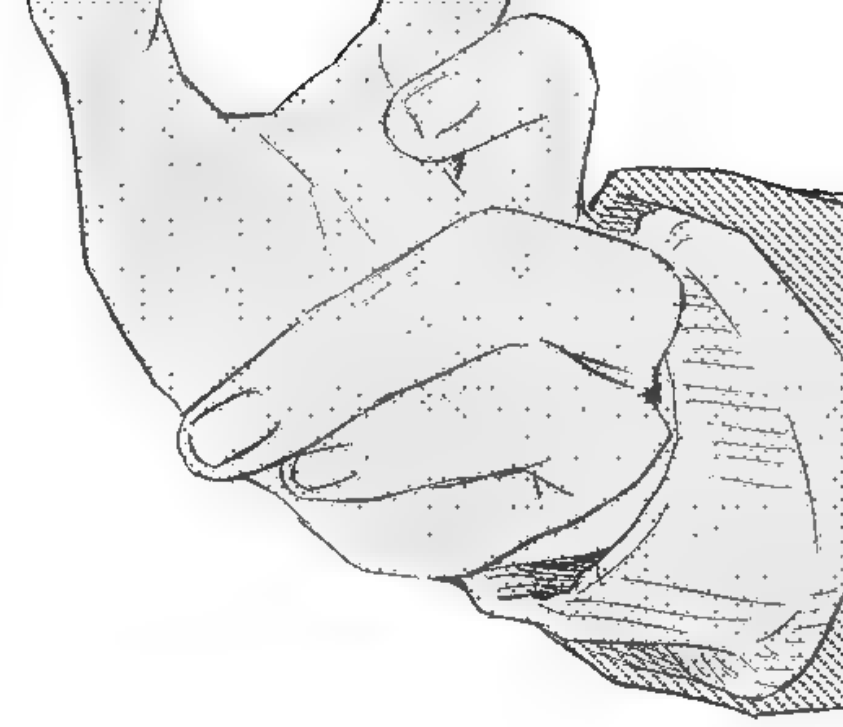


YUKI...





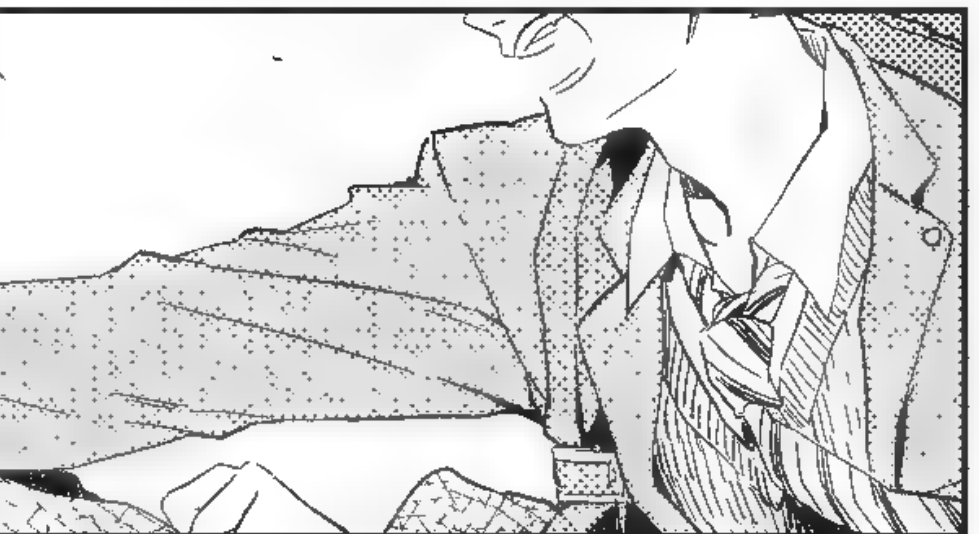
MAFLIYU  
AND YUKI  
GOT INTO  
A LITTLE  
FIGHT  
ABOUT IT.



IT WAS  
ONE OF  
THOSE...



...DUMB  
ARGUMENTS  
THAT...

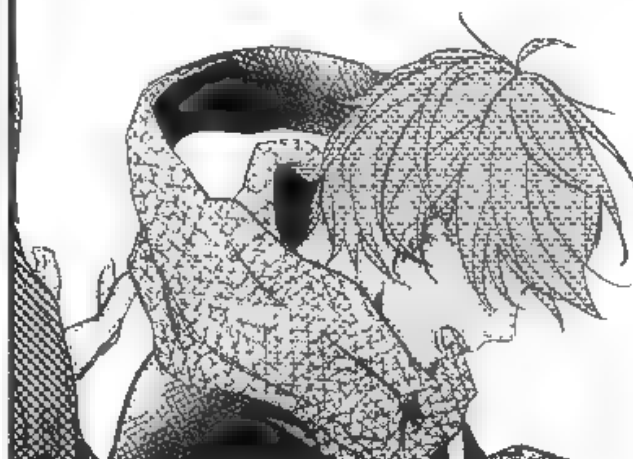


...ESCALATE  
WITHOUT  
REASON.

THE  
KIND  
YOU  
SEE  
EVERY  
DAY.



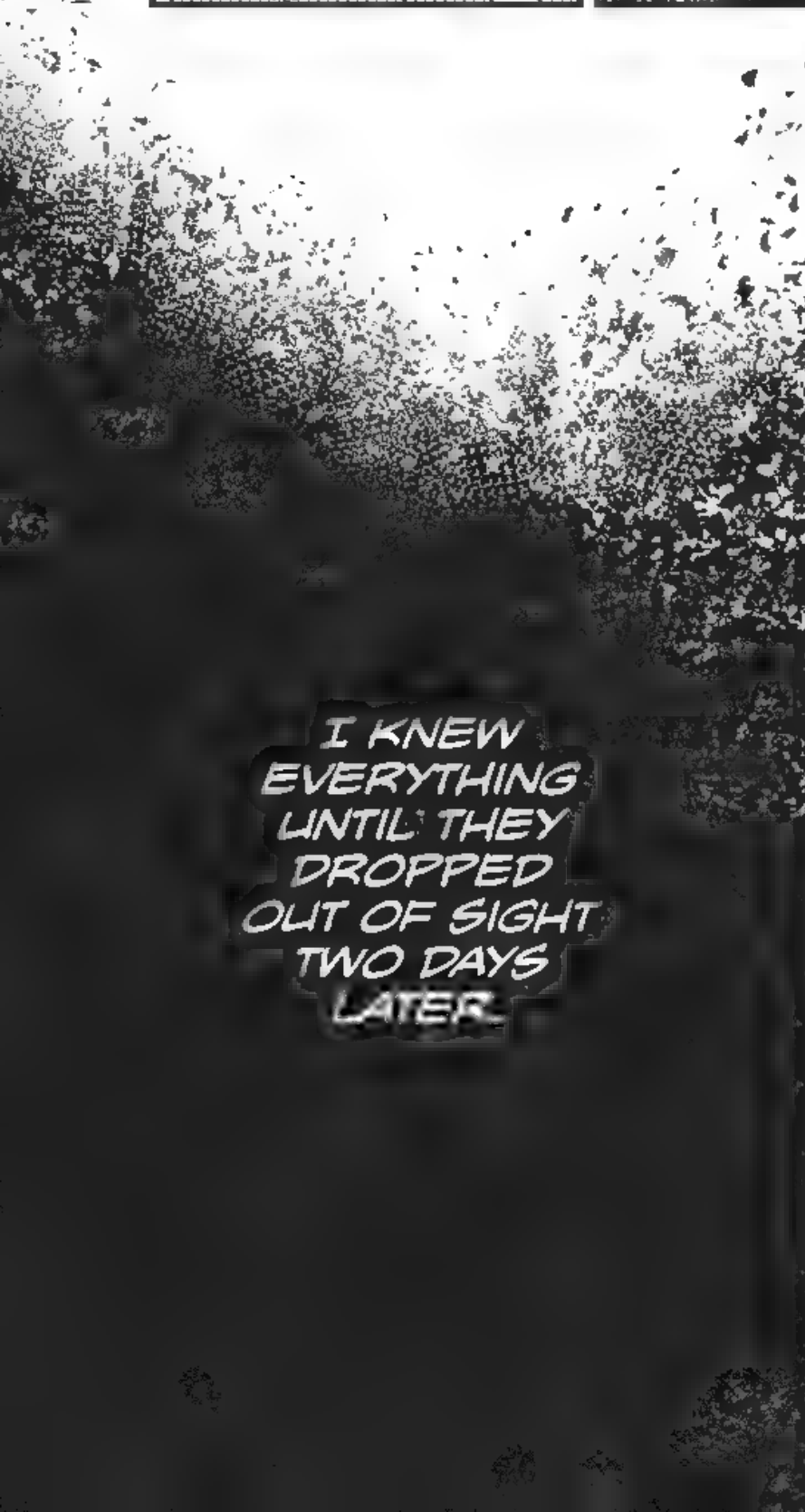
...A  
NORMAL  
COUPLE'S  
FIGHT.



IT  
WAS  
JUST...



I KNEW  
EVERYTHING  
UNTIL THEY  
DROPPED  
OUT OF SIGHT  
TWO DAYS  
LATER.



I KNEW  
EVERYTHING  
THAT WAS  
HAPPENING.



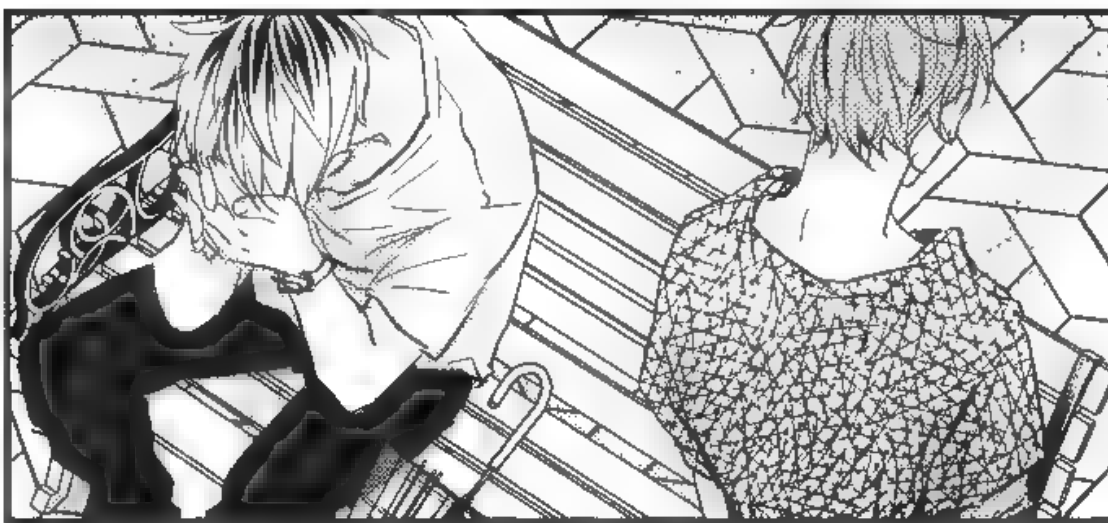
YUKI  
WASN'T A  
DRINKER.  
BUT  
APPARENTLY  
HE'D  
DRUNK  
A LOT  
BEFORE  
MAFLUYU  
FINALLY  
FOUND  
HIM.







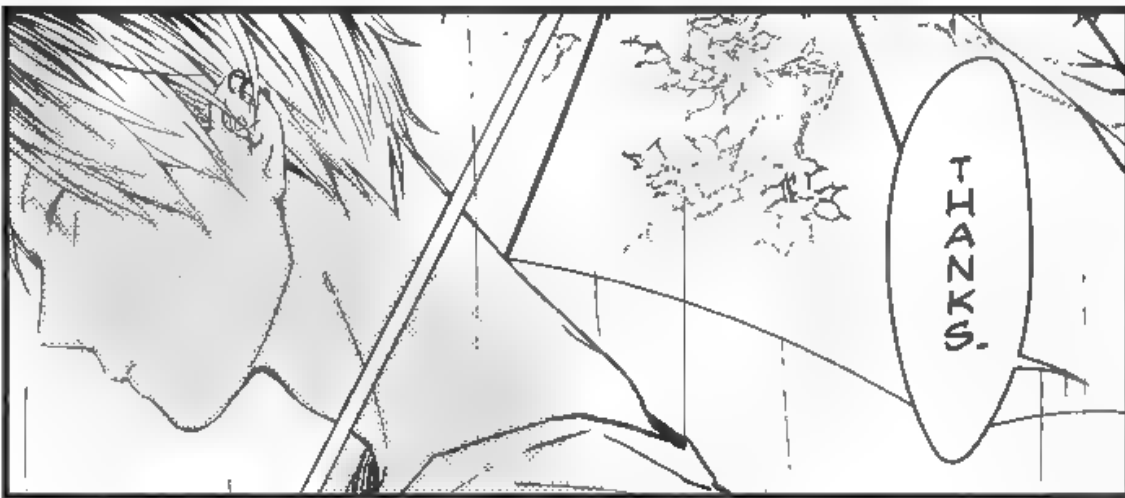
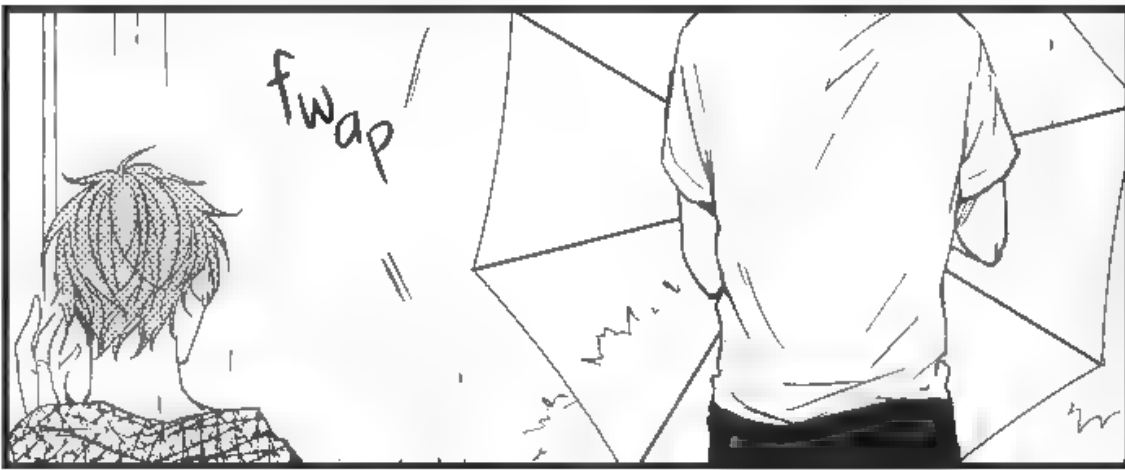
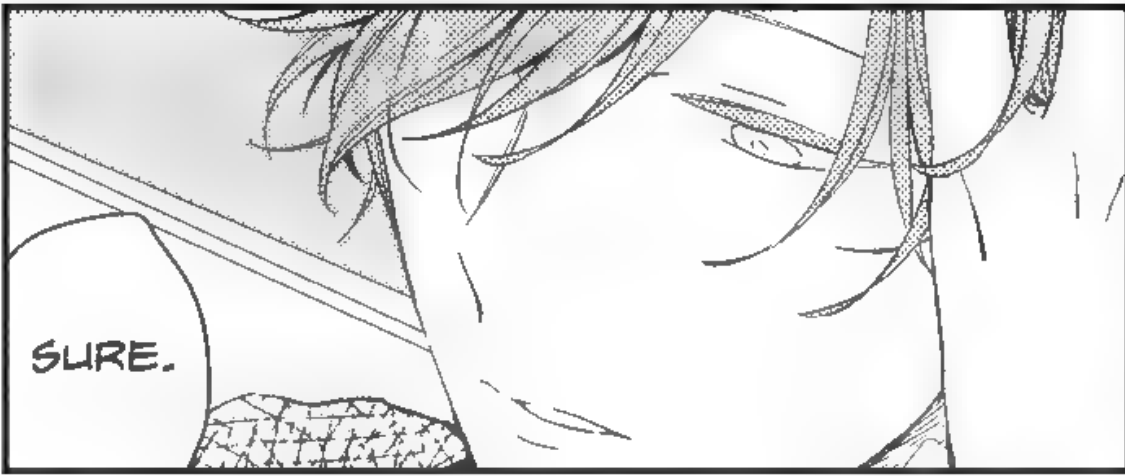
ON  
SUNDAY...  
I'M  
PLAYING  
A SHOW  
WITH A  
BAND.











TEXT  
ME  
ONCE  
IN A  
WHILE,  
IDIOT.

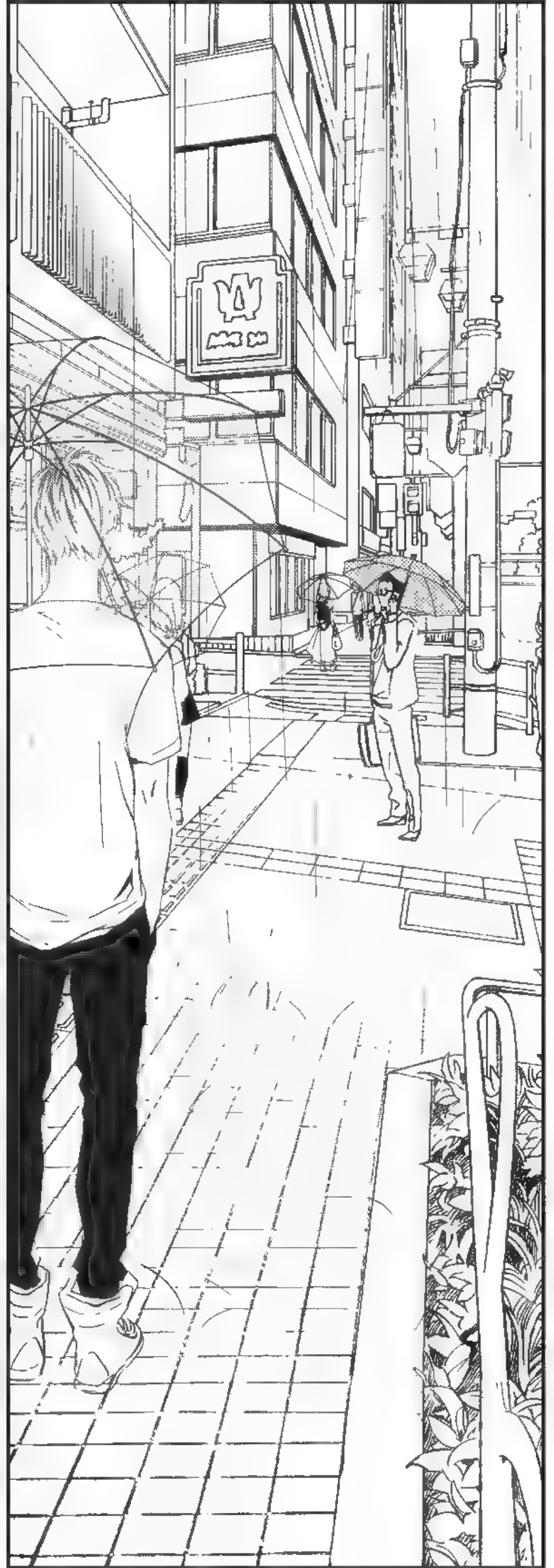
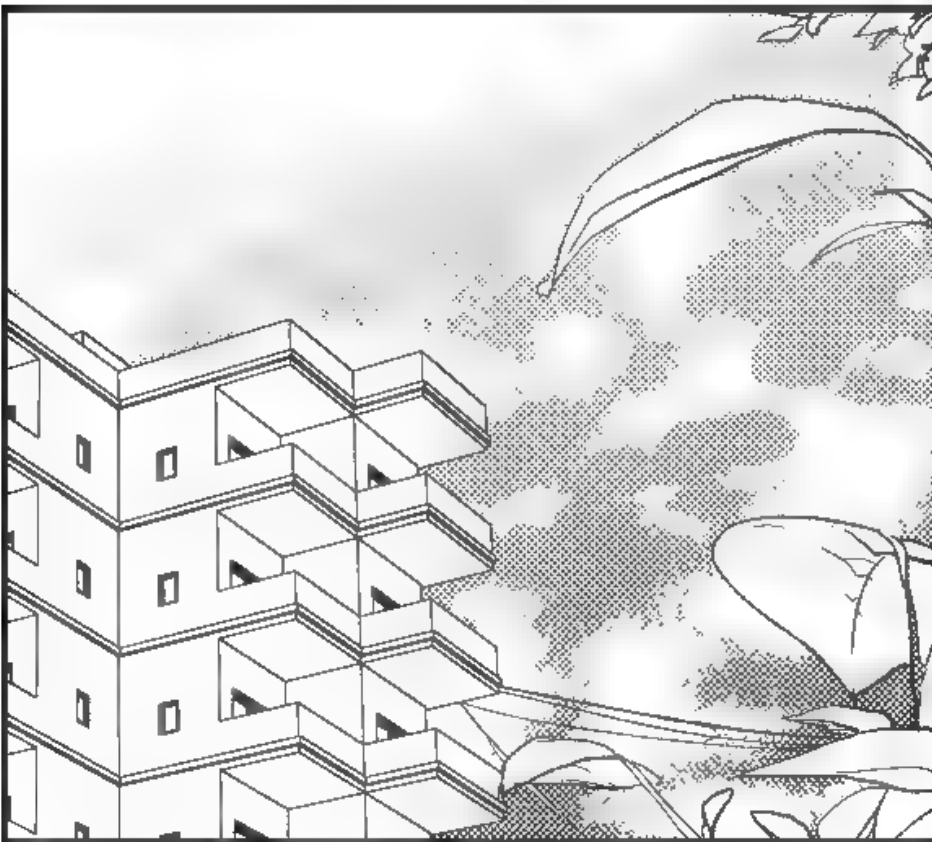




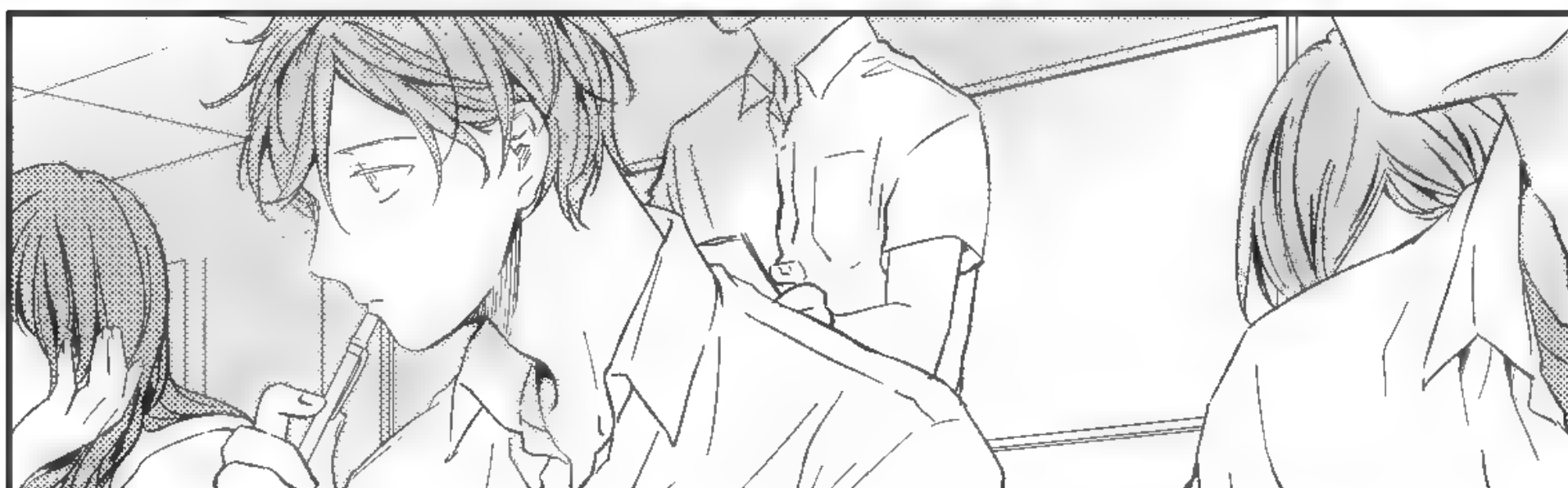
*I WANT TO BE FORGIVEN.*



*BUT I WANT TO BE FORGIVEN BY MAFLIYU MOST OF ALL.*

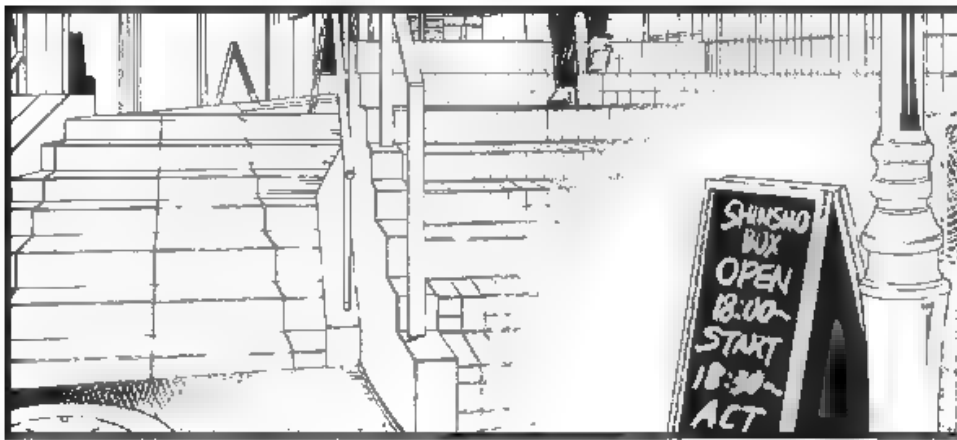








ALL  
RIGHT,  
EVERY-  
ONE,  
BRING  
IT IN!



YOU  
GOT  
IT!

clap

WE'VE  
GOT SOME  
KIDS HERE  
TONIGHT,  
SO ADULTS,  
PLEASE  
HELP 'EM  
OUT.



SO THAT  
ABOUT  
DOES  
IT FOR  
WARM-  
UPS.

# The Day of the Concert

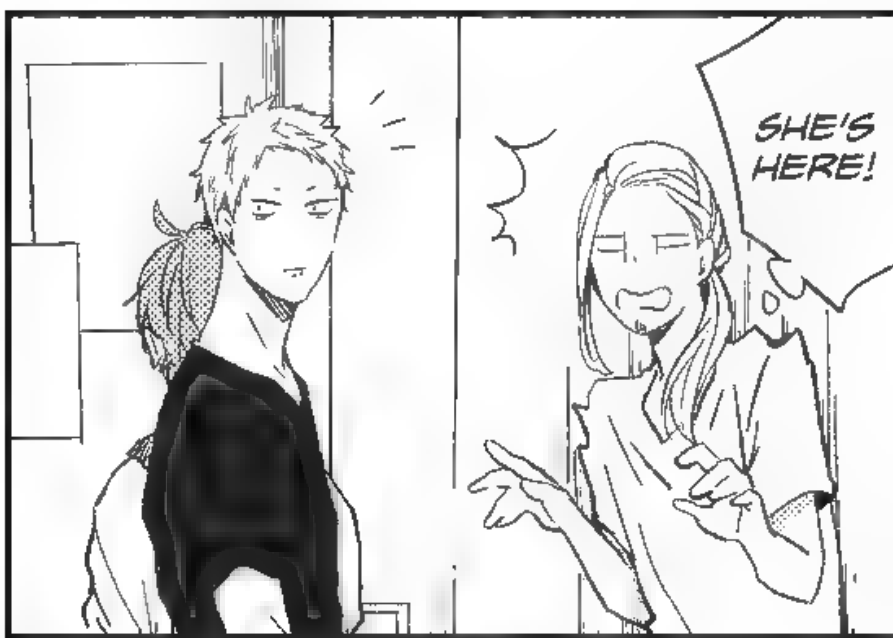
clap  
clap

Sure!

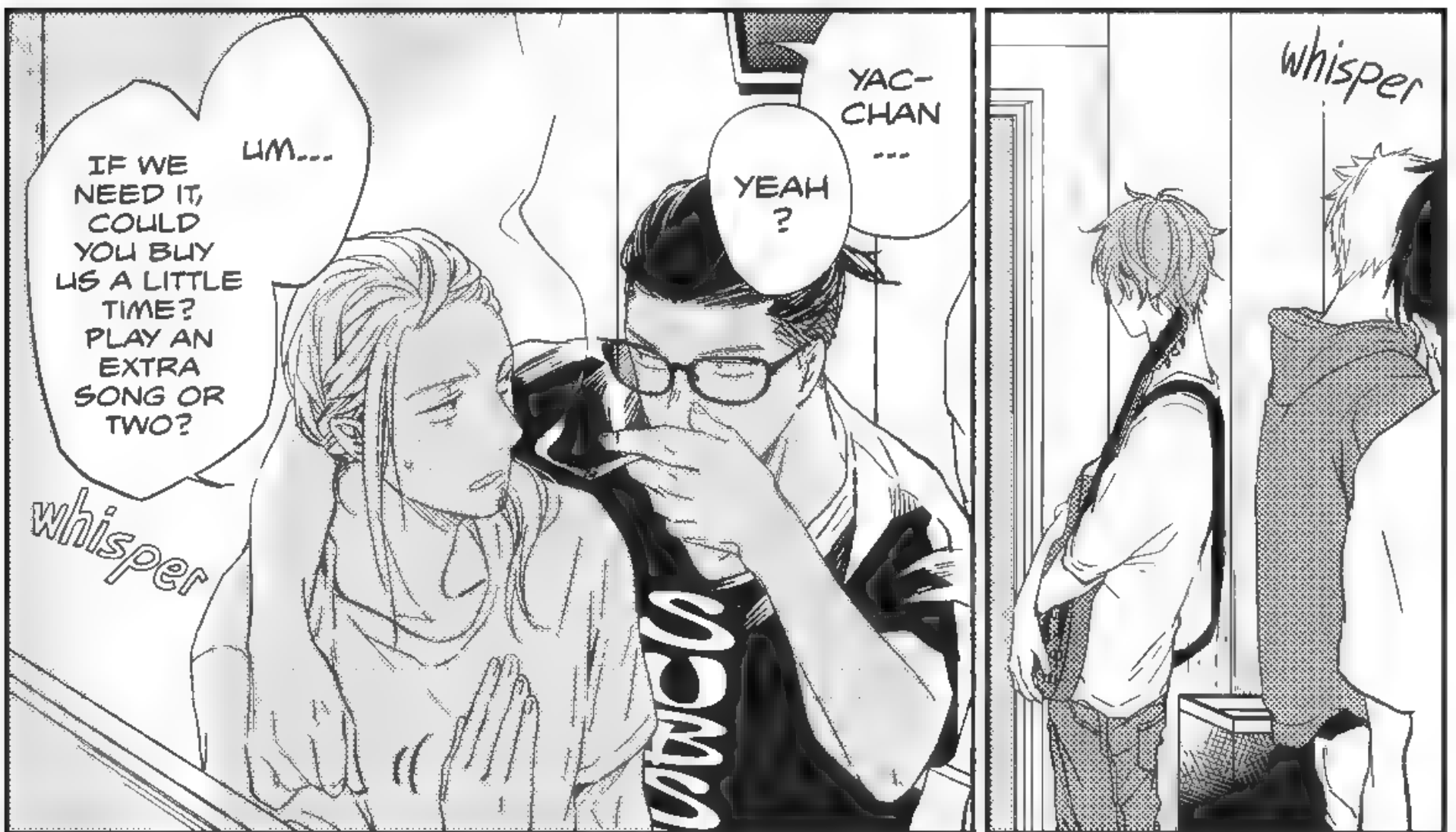
Thanks  
all!





















# Hiragi Kashima (17)

175 cm

Birthday: 5/8

Sign: Taurus Blood Type: A

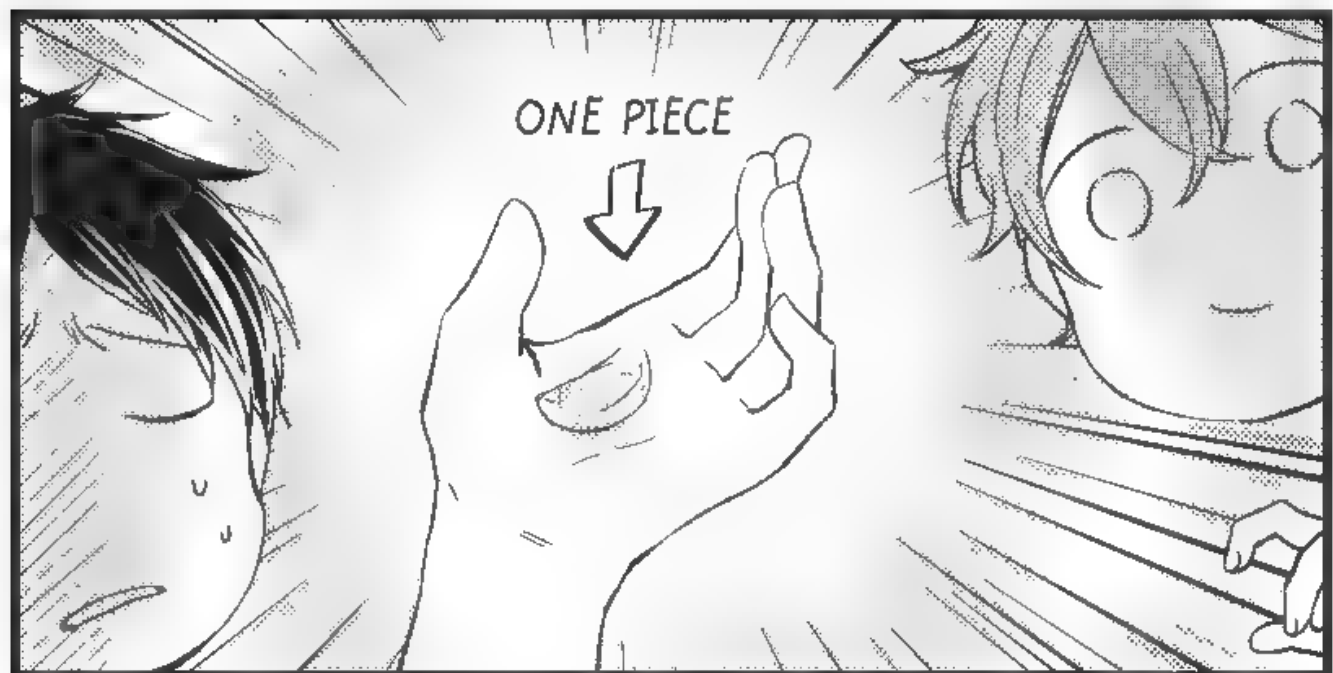
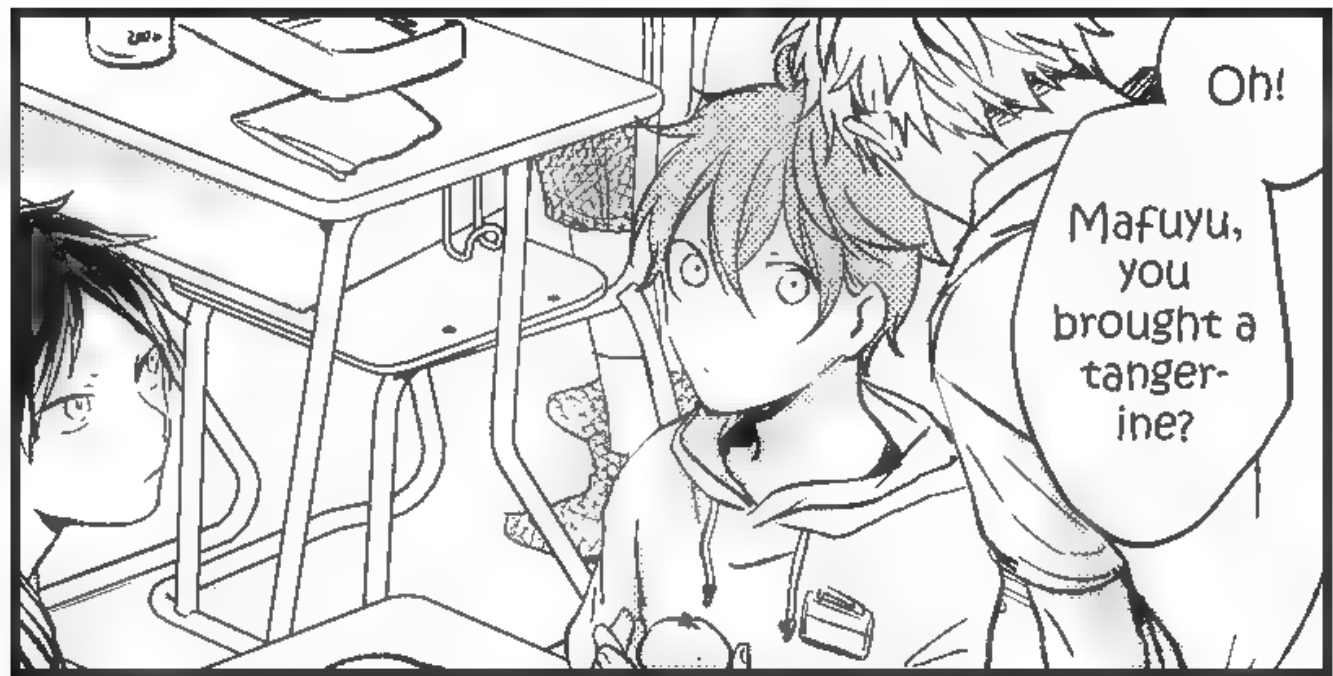
Plays bass, supposedly.

Dyes his hair.

Goes to the same high school  
as Yuki and Shizusumi.



# Ever Since We Were Kids



given

by Natsuki Kizumi



# chapter 10

given



chatter

grip

WHA  
...?

OH,  
NO...







WHAT'S  
THAT LOOK  
FOR?  
IT'S NOT  
THE END  
OF THE  
WORLD  
JUST  
'CAUSE A  
STRING IS  
BROKEN!

---



RUN  
TO THE  
STORE  
IN FRONT  
OF THE  
STATION  
AND GO  
BUY A  
NEW  
ONE.



JUST  
LIKE  
YOU  
DID...

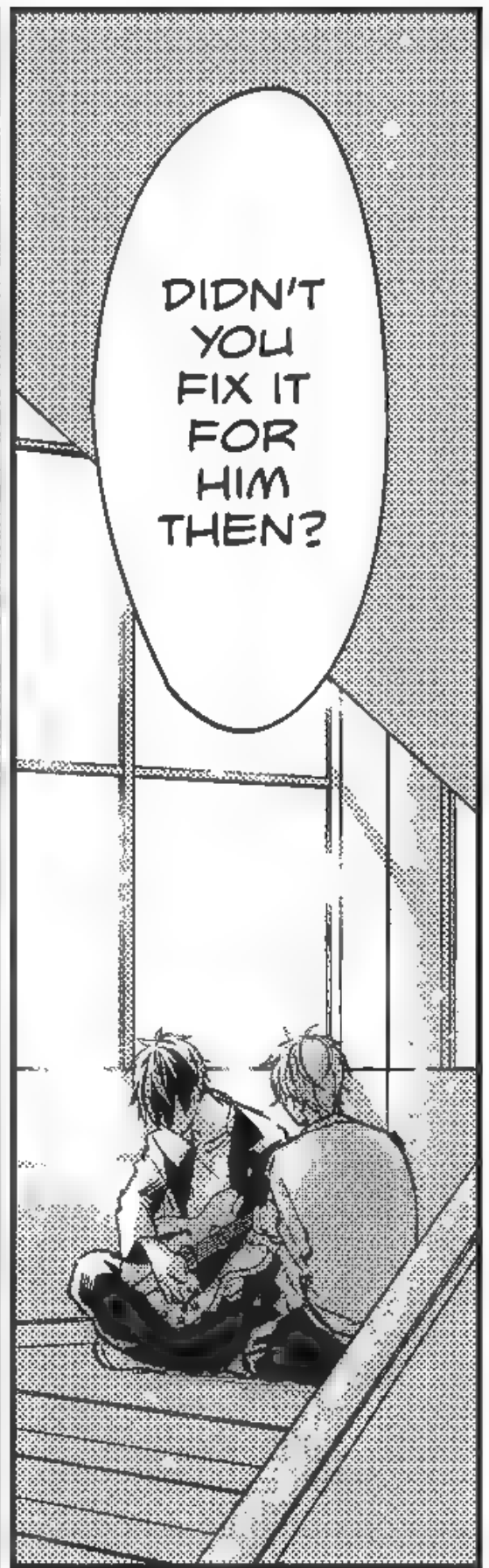
...  
WHEN  
YOU  
FIRST  
MET  
HIM.



WHEN  
SOME-  
THING'S  
BROKEN,  
YOU  
FIX IT,  
RIGHT?



...CAN  
BE  
FIXED?"



DIDN'T  
YOU  
FIX IT  
FOR  
HIM  
THEN?



thump



"COURSE IT CAN!"

thump







**I'M AN IDIOT.**



**I'M  
THE ONE  
WHO  
TOLD HIM  
TO SING.**

HE'S  
HARD  
TO  
READ.

BUT HE  
ALWAYS  
MAKES  
AN  
EFFORT...

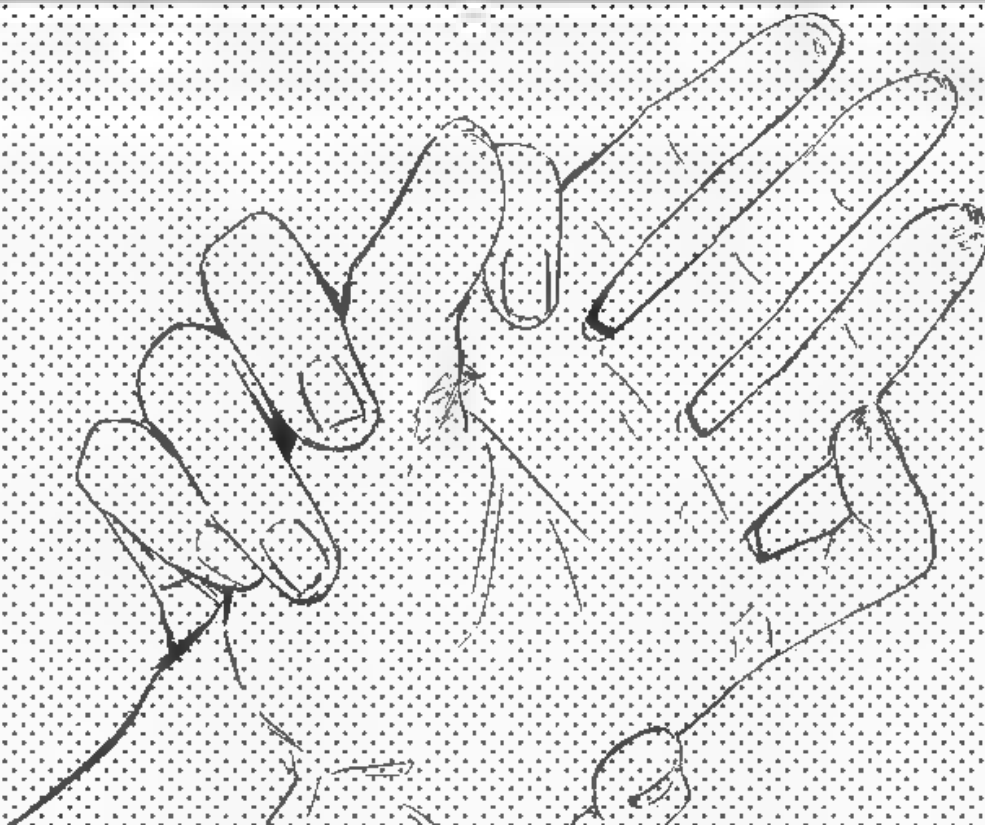
...AND  
RESPONDS  
WHEN  
HE'S ASKED  
FOR  
SOMETHING.

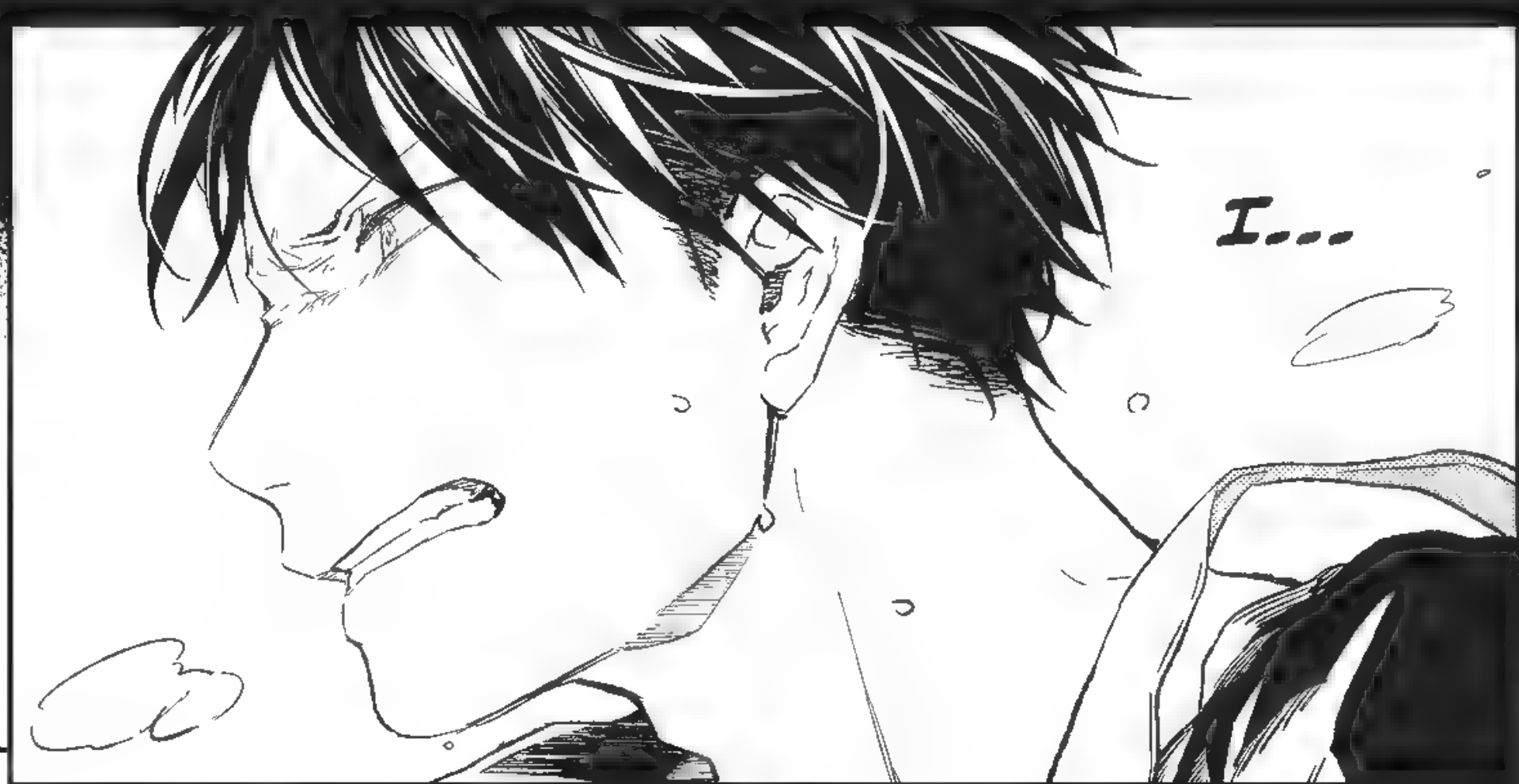


"YEAH,  
I DID.  
THEY  
INVITED  
ME TO  
JOIN."



"I  
CHANGED  
THE  
STRINGS  
BY  
MYSELF!"





I...



GOT IT!



I ASKED THE GUYS GOING ON BEFORE US TO PLAY A COUPLE OF EXTRA SONGS TO BUY US SOME MORE TIME TO GET READY.

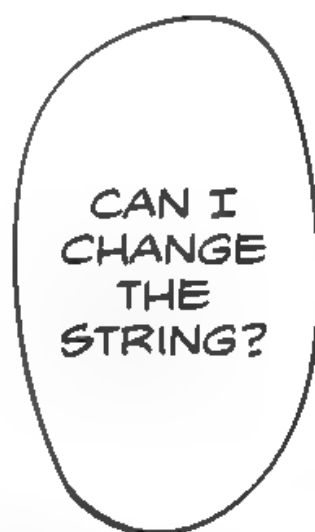
THAT WAS FAST!

Wish I still had that much energy.

Though that means we'll have a really short set

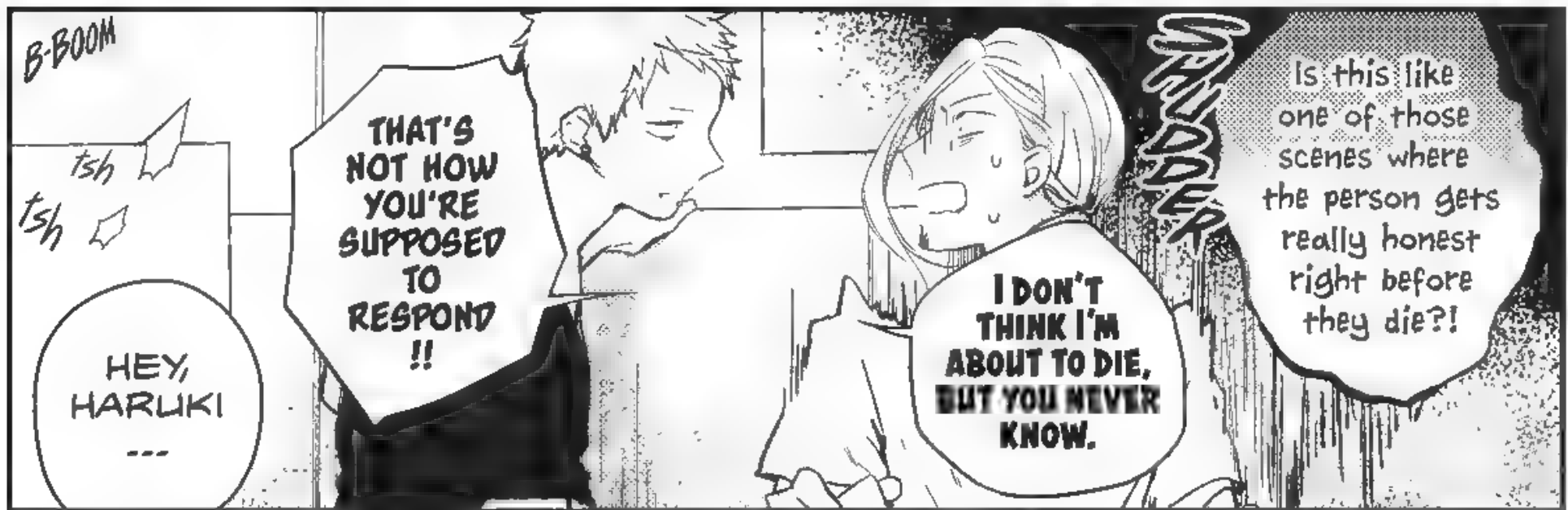






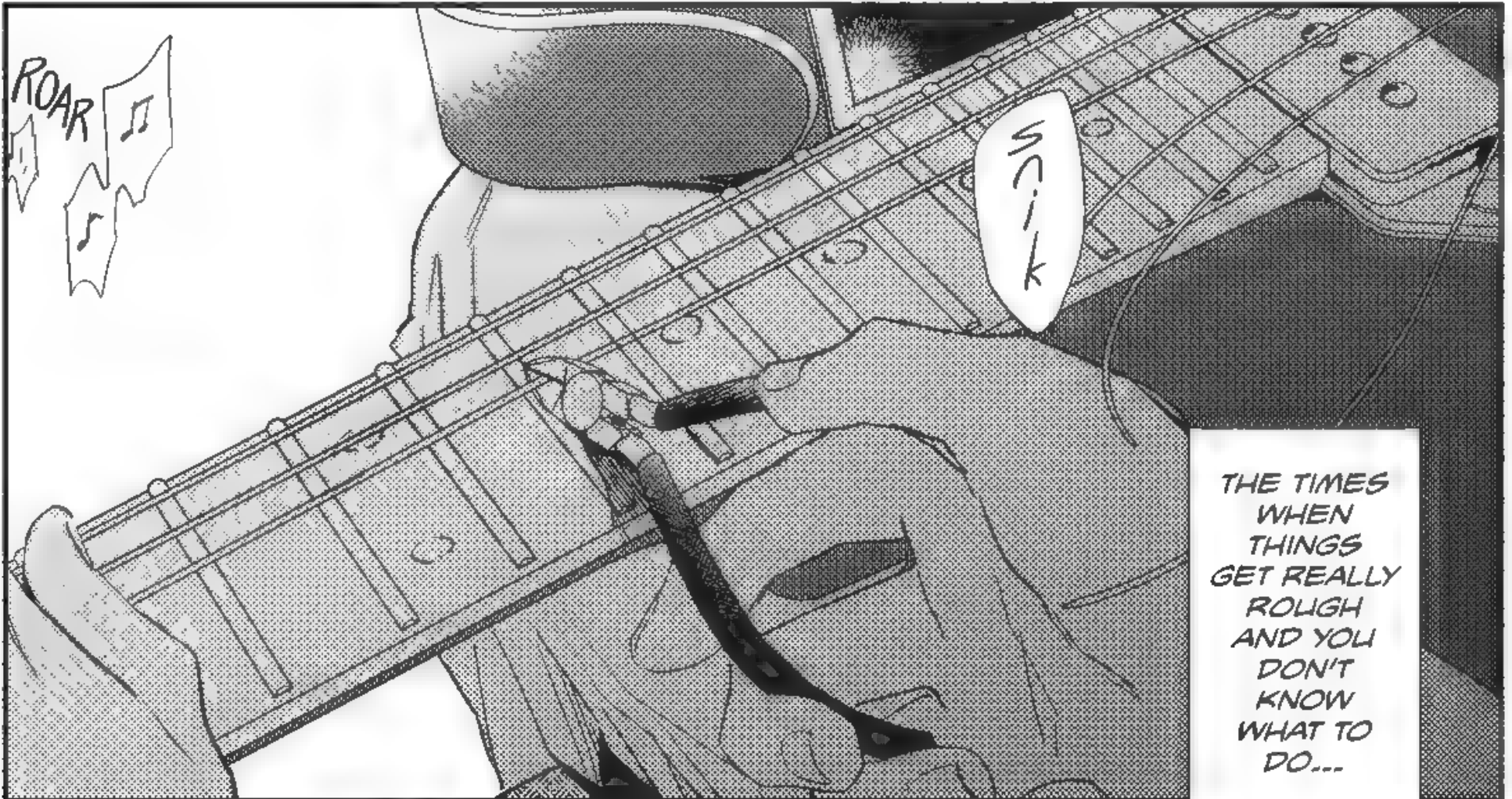




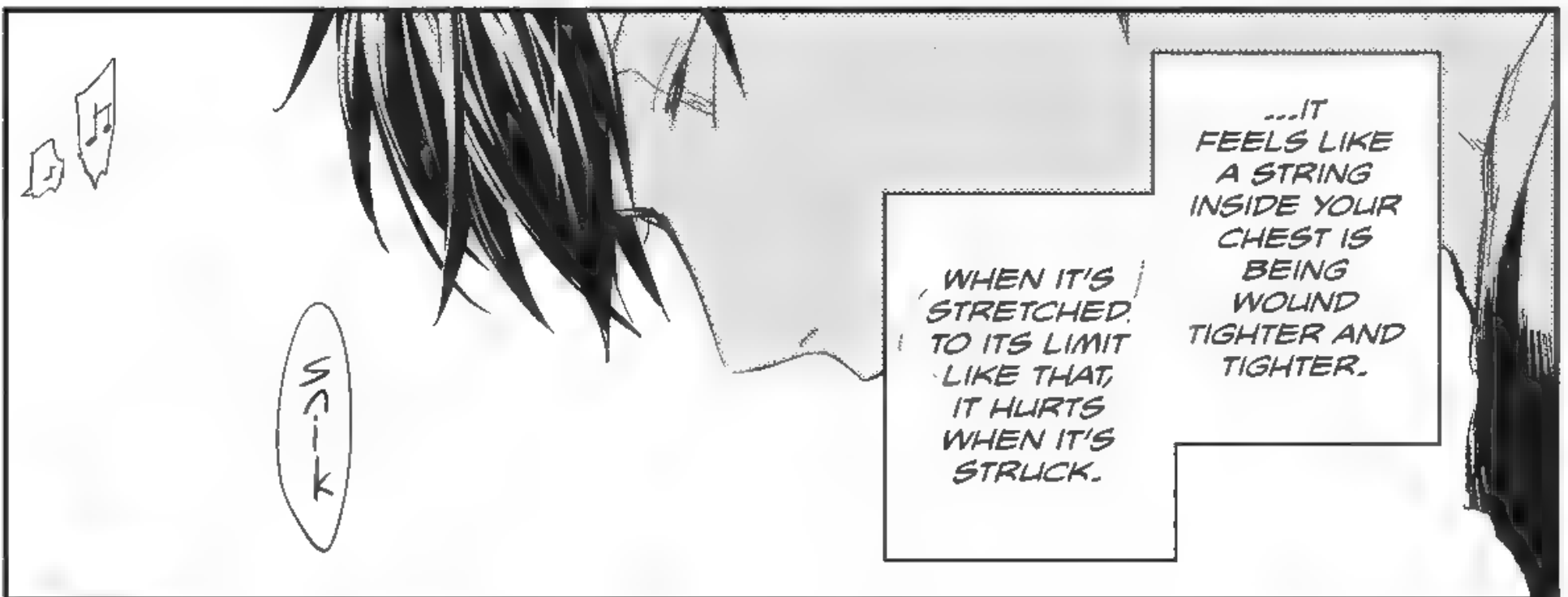


I THINK THE HEART IS LIKE A GUITAR STRING.

snick



THE TIMES  
WHEN  
THINGS  
GET REALLY  
ROUGH  
AND YOU  
DON'T  
KNOW  
WHAT TO  
DO...



WHEN IT'S  
STRETCHED  
TO ITS LIMIT  
LIKE THAT,  
IT HURTS  
WHEN IT'S  
STRUCK.

...IT  
FEELS LIKE  
A STRING  
INSIDE YOUR  
CHEST IS  
BEING  
WOUND  
TIGHTER AND  
TIGHTER.



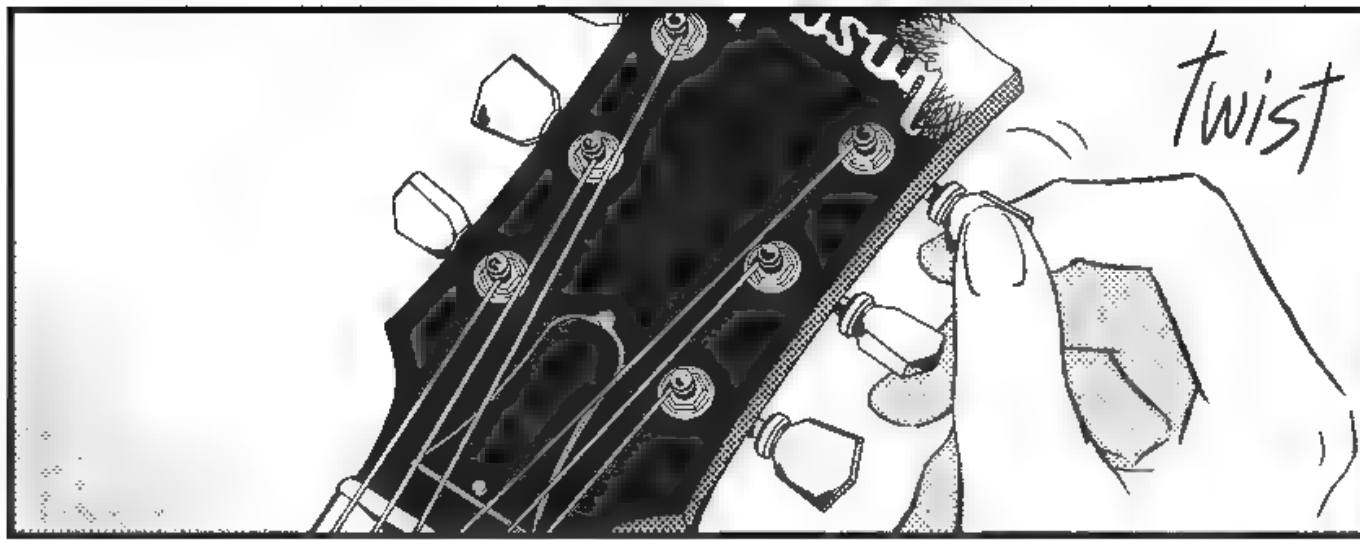
...IF  
SOMEONE  
COMES  
ALONG  
AND  
BRINGS YOU  
A NEW  
STRING...

BUT  
THEN  
...



SOME-  
TIMES  
IT  
BREAKS.

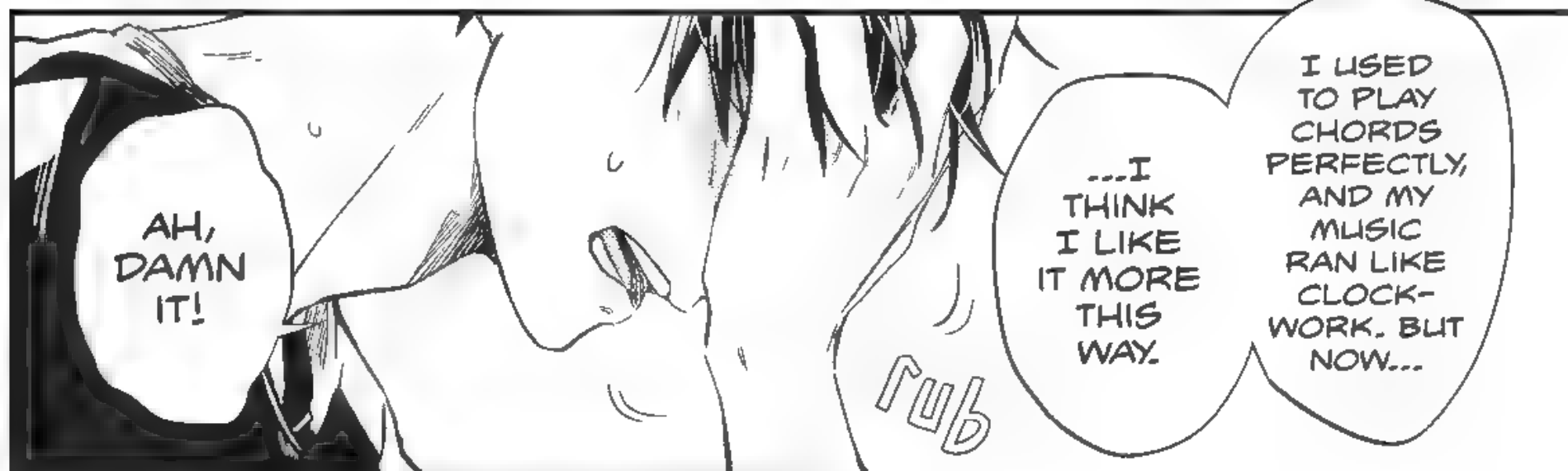
AND YOU  
THINK  
THERE'S  
NO WAY  
IT'LL  
EVER BE  
FIXED.







...MY SOUND  
HAS BEEN  
ALL OVER  
THE PLACE.  
IT'S A  
CHAOTIC,  
DISTORTED  
MESS.



AH,  
DAMN  
IT!

...I  
THINK  
I LIKE  
IT MORE  
THIS  
WAY.

rub

I USED  
TO PLAY  
CHORDS  
PERFECTLY,  
AND MY  
MUSIC  
RAN LIKE  
CLOCK-  
WORK. BUT  
NOW...



I  
GUESS  
I SUCK  
AT  
PUTTING  
THINGS  
...

...INTO  
WORDS  
TOO.



...SO  
THANKS  
FOR YOUR  
PATIENCE,  
AND HAVE  
A GREAT  
NIGHT!

clap

clap

THANK  
YOU  
VERY  
MUCH!

I KNOW  
YOU ALL  
HAVE  
BEEN  
WAITING  
FOR THE  
NEXT  
BAND...

Wah  
ha  
ha!

ROAR

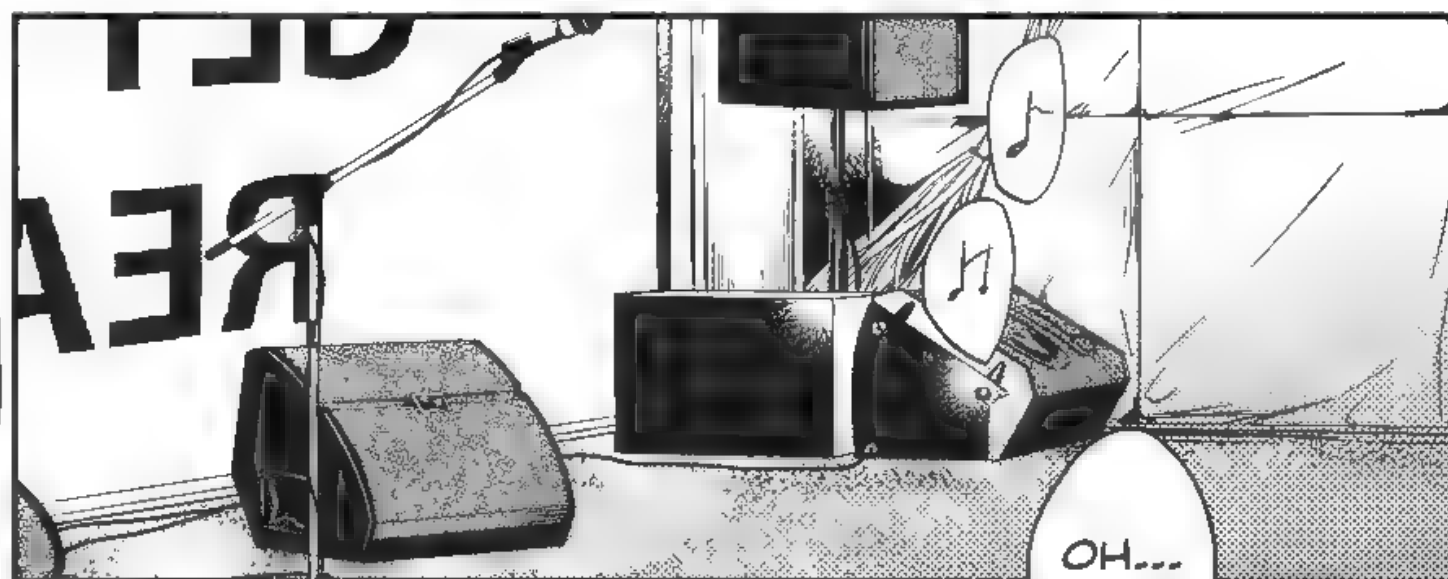


UENO-  
YAMA'S  
BUILT UP A  
FOLLOWING  
AT THE  
CLUBS  
AROUND  
HERE.

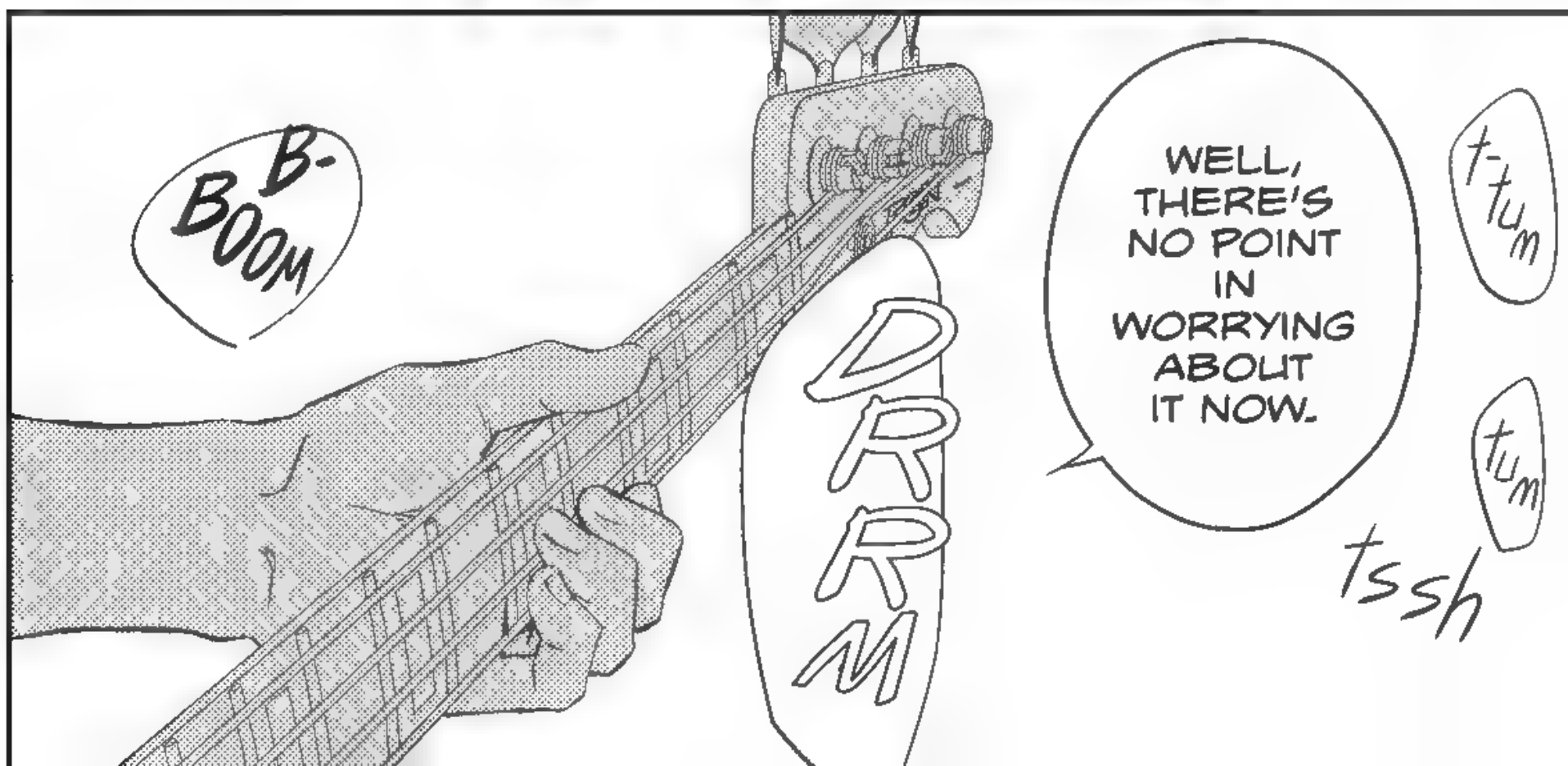
THE  
OTHER  
TWO  
GUYS  
ARE  
GOOD  
TOO,  
BUT...

HAVEN'T  
BEEN  
TO THIS  
PLACE  
BEFORE,  
BUT IT  
LOOKS LIKE  
A BIG  
CROWD.

YEAH,  
A LOTTA  
PEOPLE  
SHOWED  
UP.

















RM

BUT...

...STILL...

RM

b-  
thump

b-  
thump

"I  
GUESS  
I SUCK  
AT  
PUTTING  
THINGS  
..."

THE  
TRUTH  
IS...

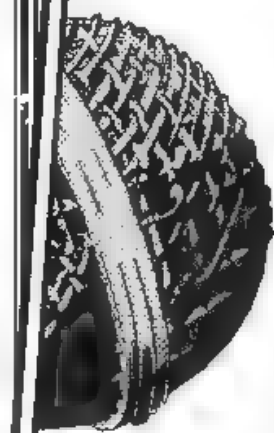
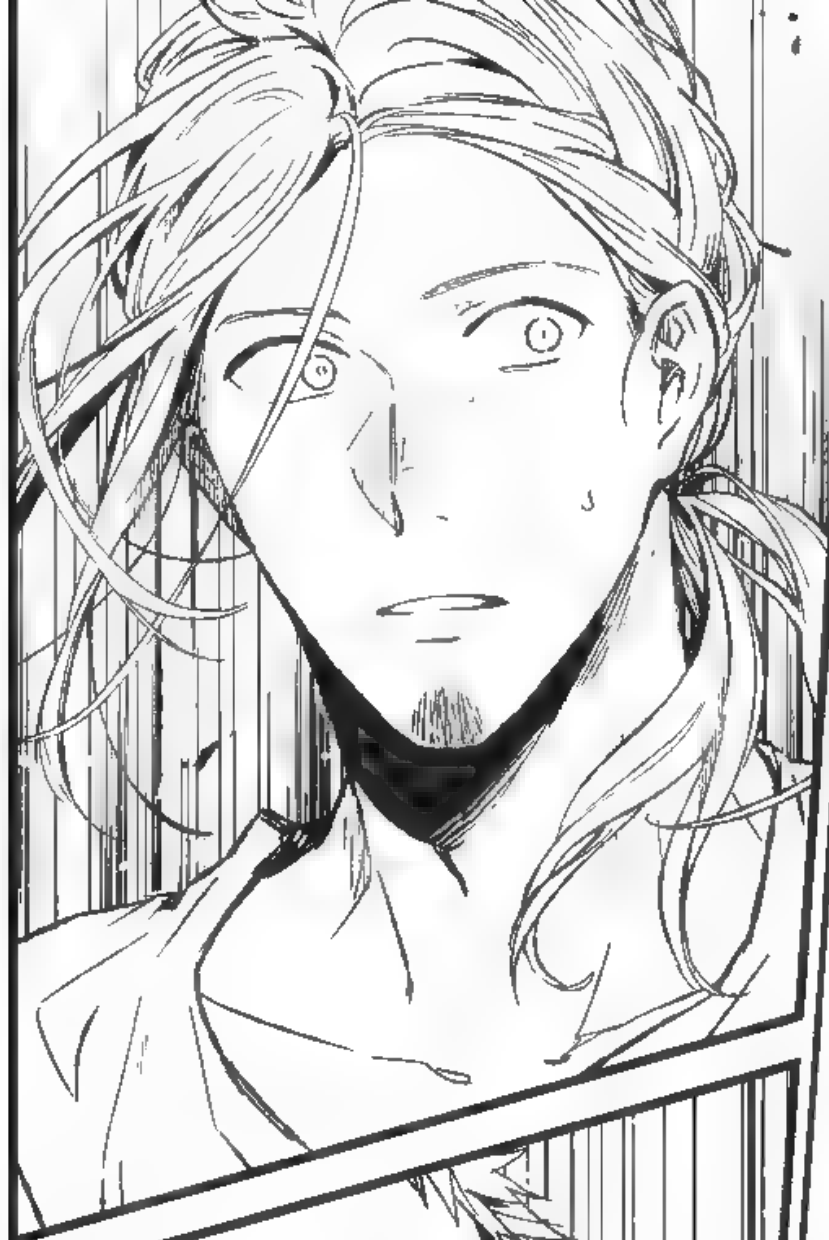
"...INTO  
WORDS  
TOO."

THE  
TRUTH  
IS,  
I'VE  
ALWAYS

...

Ahh









EVEN  
IF IT'S  
JUST A  
LITTLE...

...WANTED  
SOMEONE  
TO HEAR ME  
SCREAM OUT  
THIS PAIN  
AND MISERY  
THAT'S STUCK  
INSIDE.





---I  
WANTED  
SOMEONE  
TO  
UNDERSTAND.





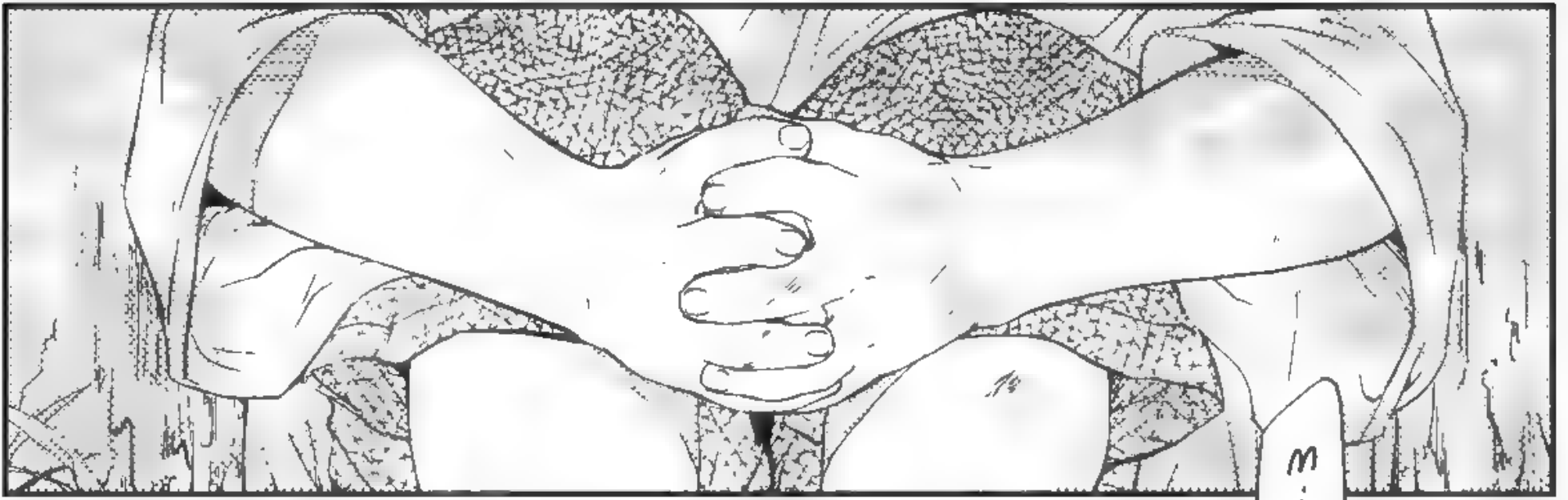
given

by Natsuki Kizu

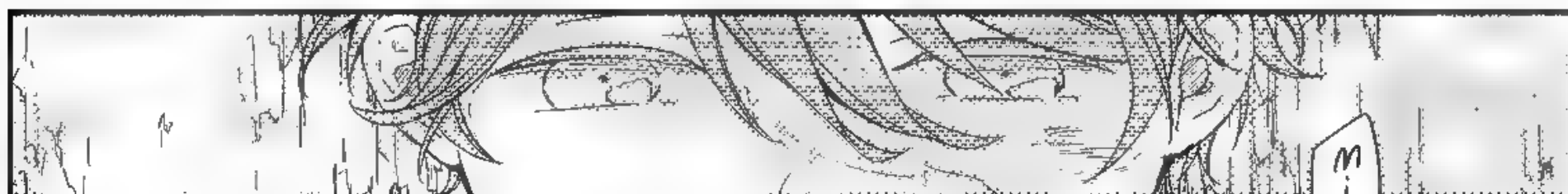
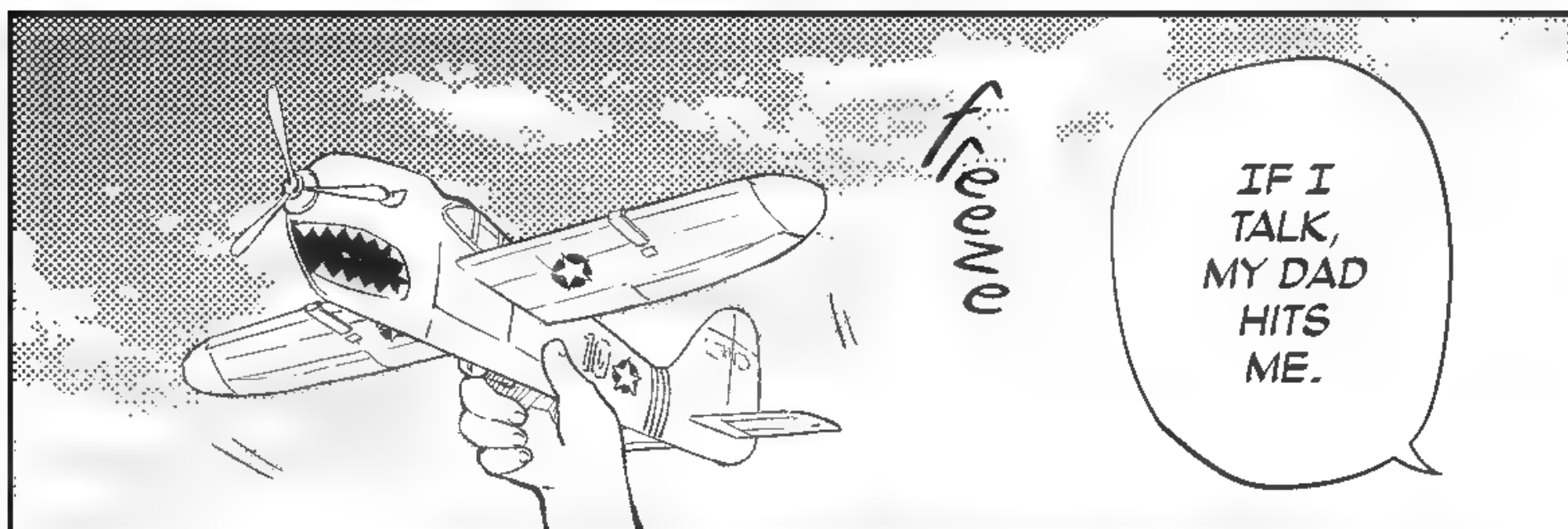
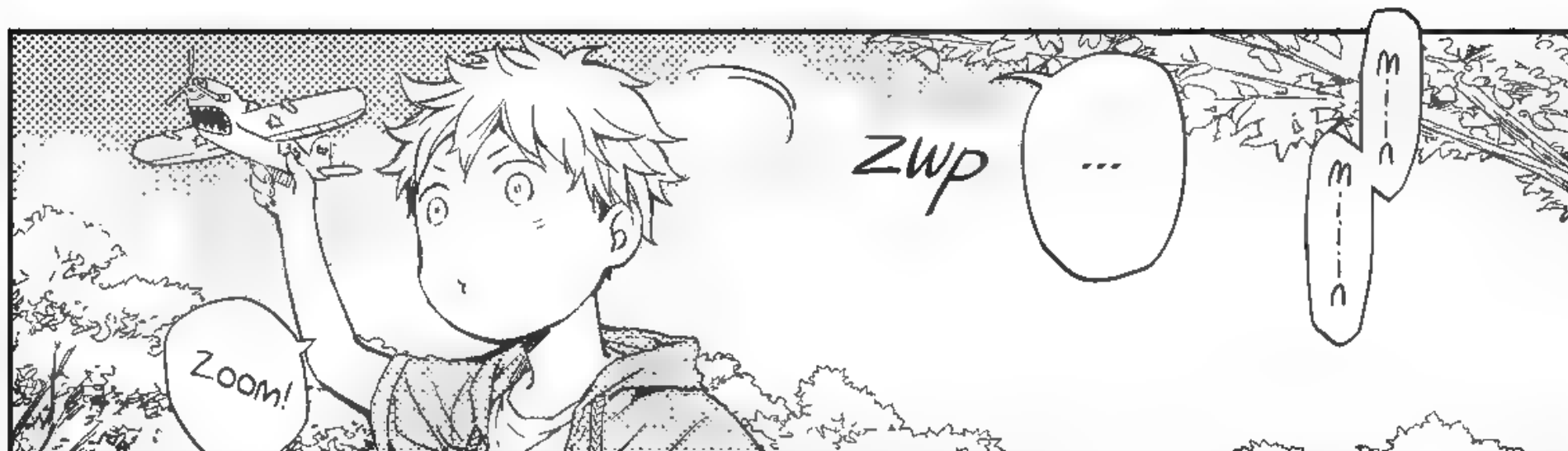
# chapter 11

given





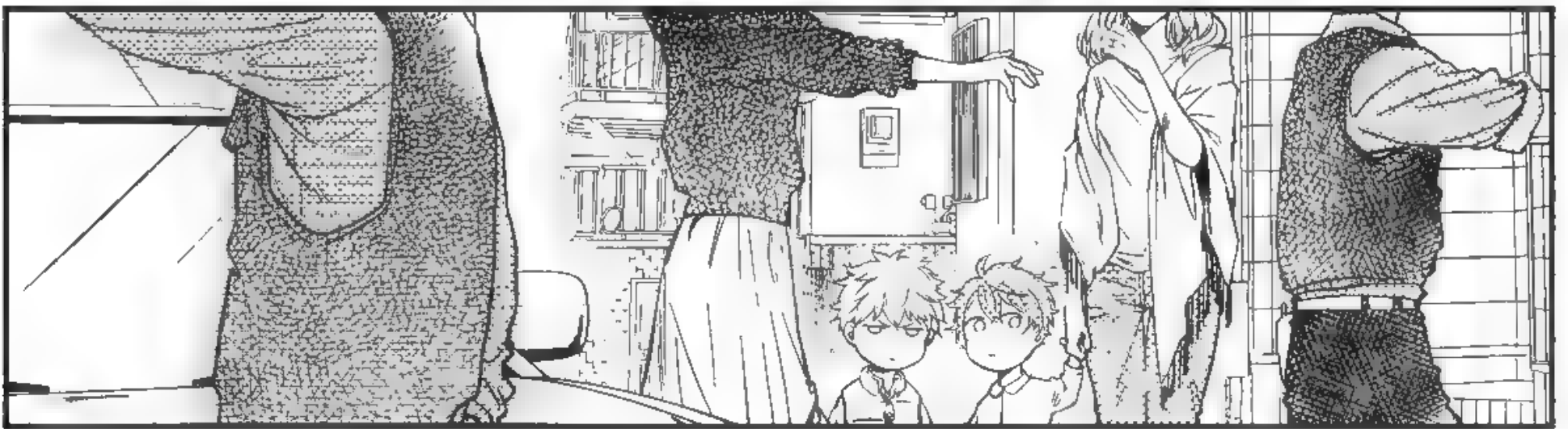
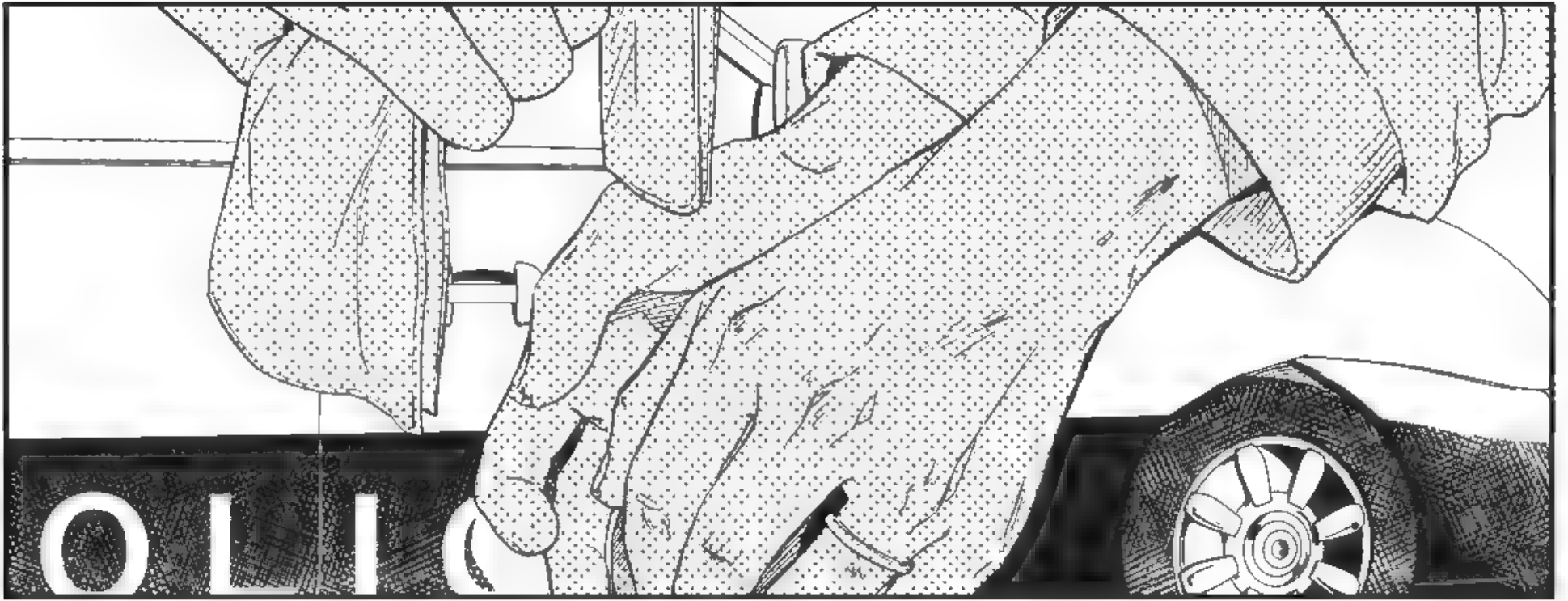


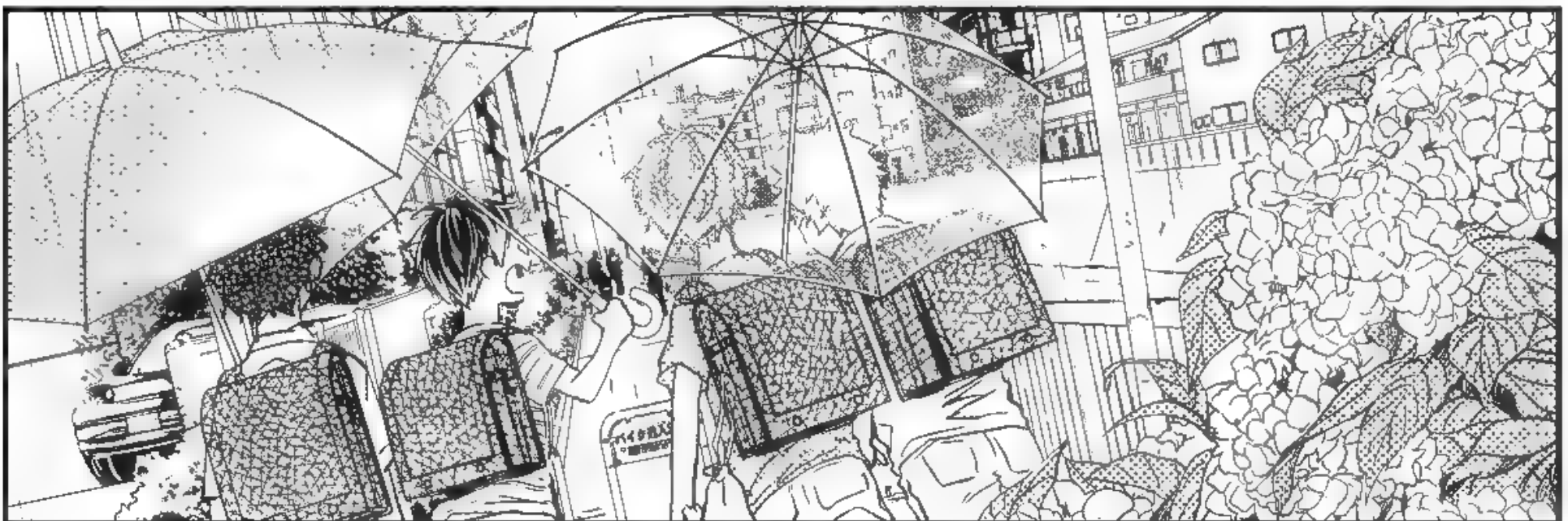
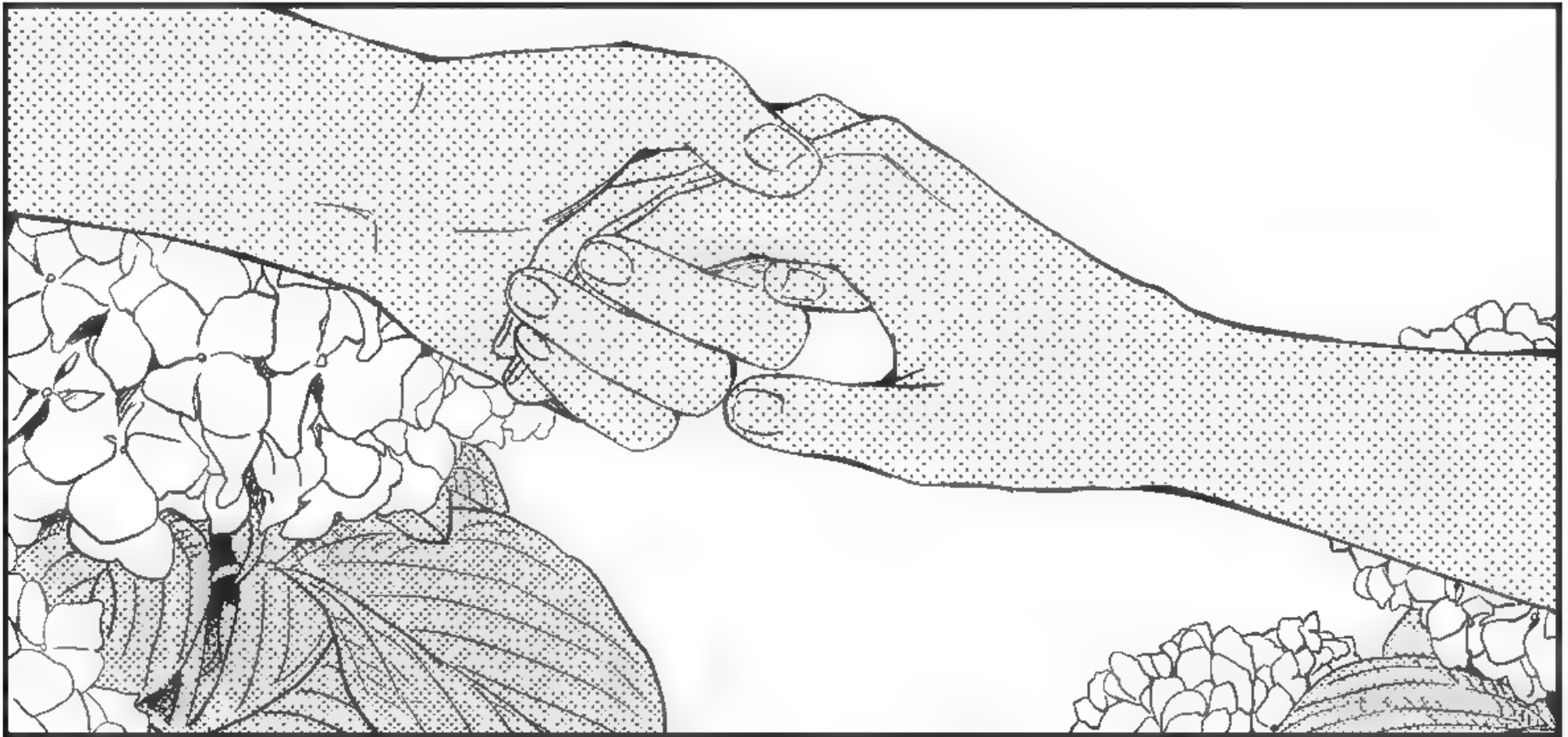


...THAT  
WAS  
IT.

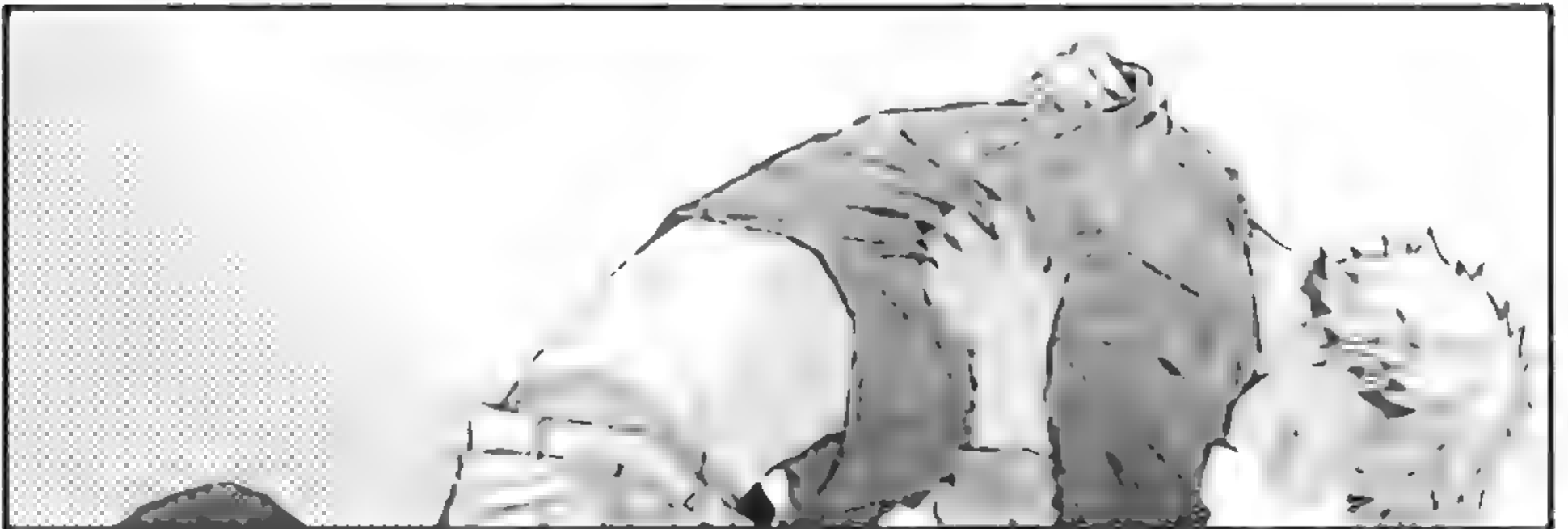
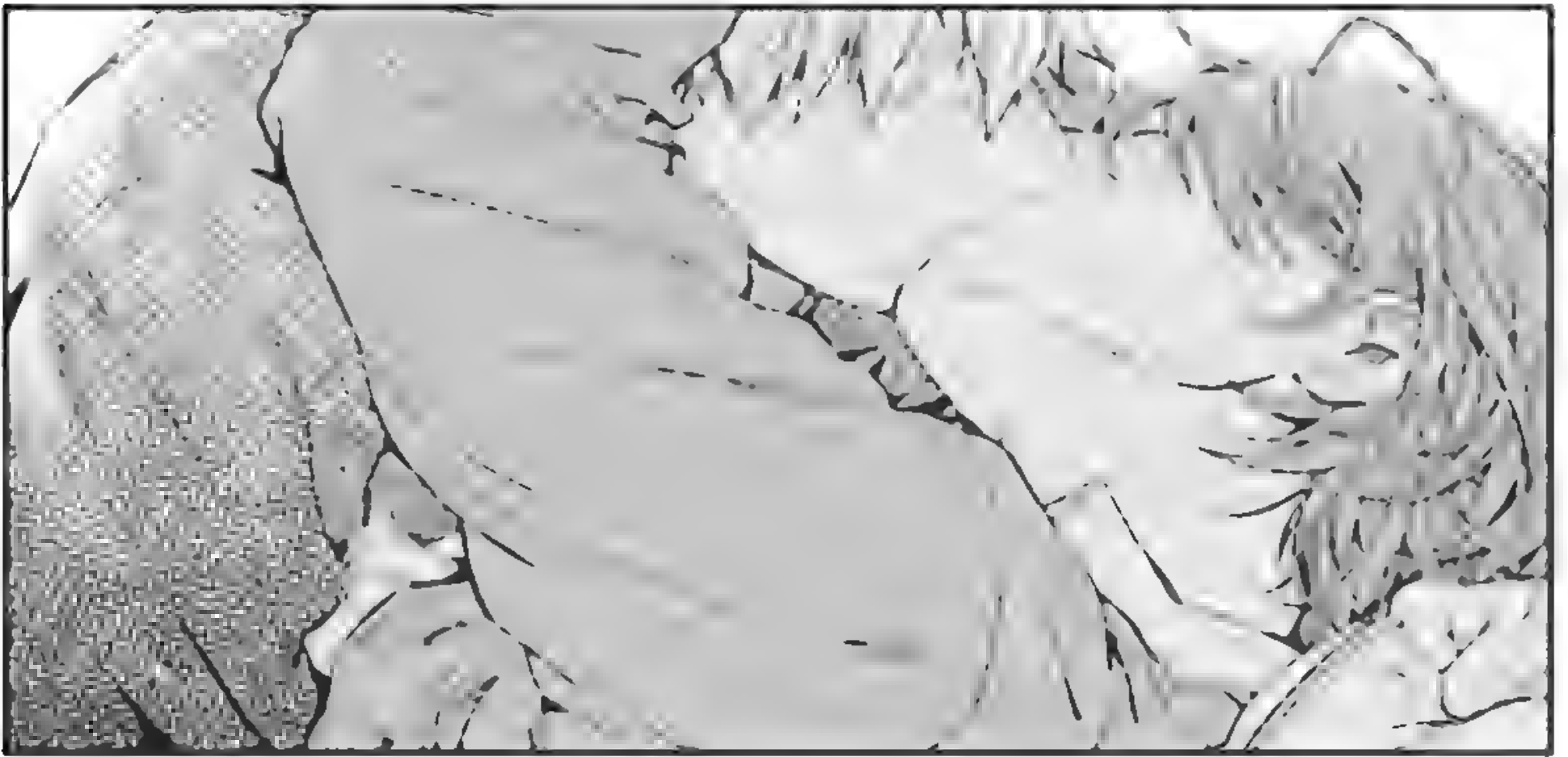
WELL...

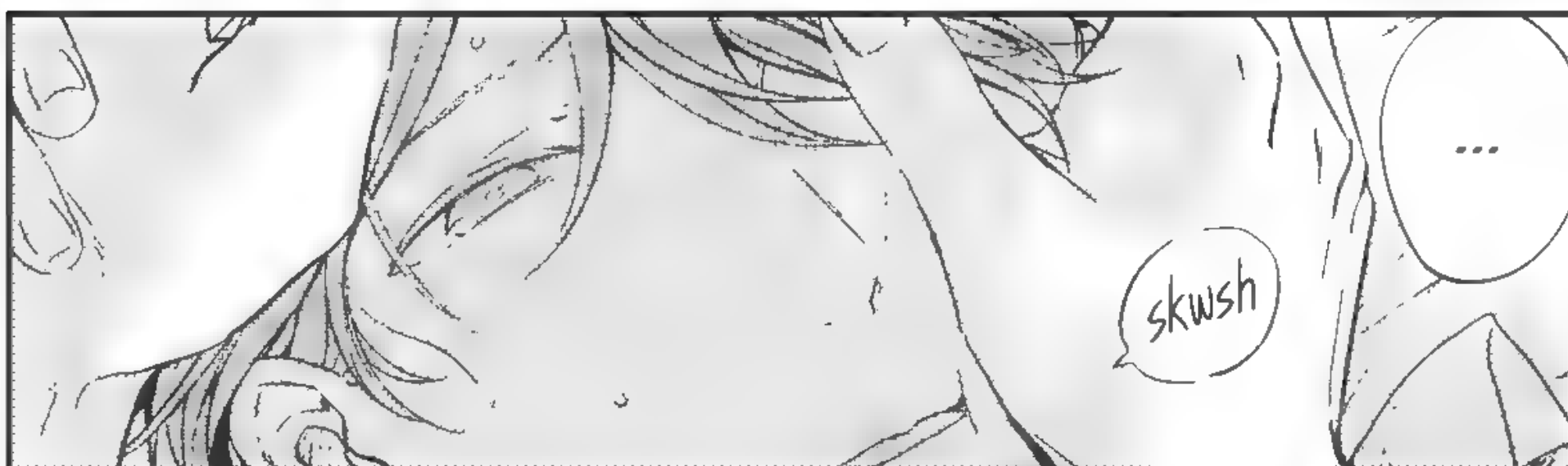
I'M  
NOT  
YOUR  
DAD.











MAFUYU  
...





I  
KNEW  
IT  
THEN.

"YOU  
KNOW  
I'D DO  
ANYTHING  
FOR  
YOU."

IT HAPPENED ONE WINTER.



"I'LL  
QUIT  
PLAYING  
MUSIC."



I  
WON'T  
BE  
LONELY.

"WHY  
DON'T  
YOU  
BELIEVE  
ME?!"

"I..."

EVEN  
THOUGH  
I'LL  
NEVER  
SEE YOU  
AGAIN...



"I  
CAN'T  
LIVE  
WITHOUT  
YOU!"

EVEN  
THOUGH  
I'LL  
NEVER  
HAVE THE  
WORDS...

THAT  
DAY...



"FINE,  
THEN  
WOULD  
YOU  
DIE FOR  
ME?"







WHAT'S  
WITH THIS  
KID...?

SHVR

ROOM

IT  
HAP-  
PENED  
ONE  
WINTER  
...

IT  
HAP-  
PENED  
ONE  
NIGHT...

J-  
VANG

stunned

YOU  
LEFT  
ME  
HERE  
ALL  
ALONE.

Hahh

Hah





WHY?



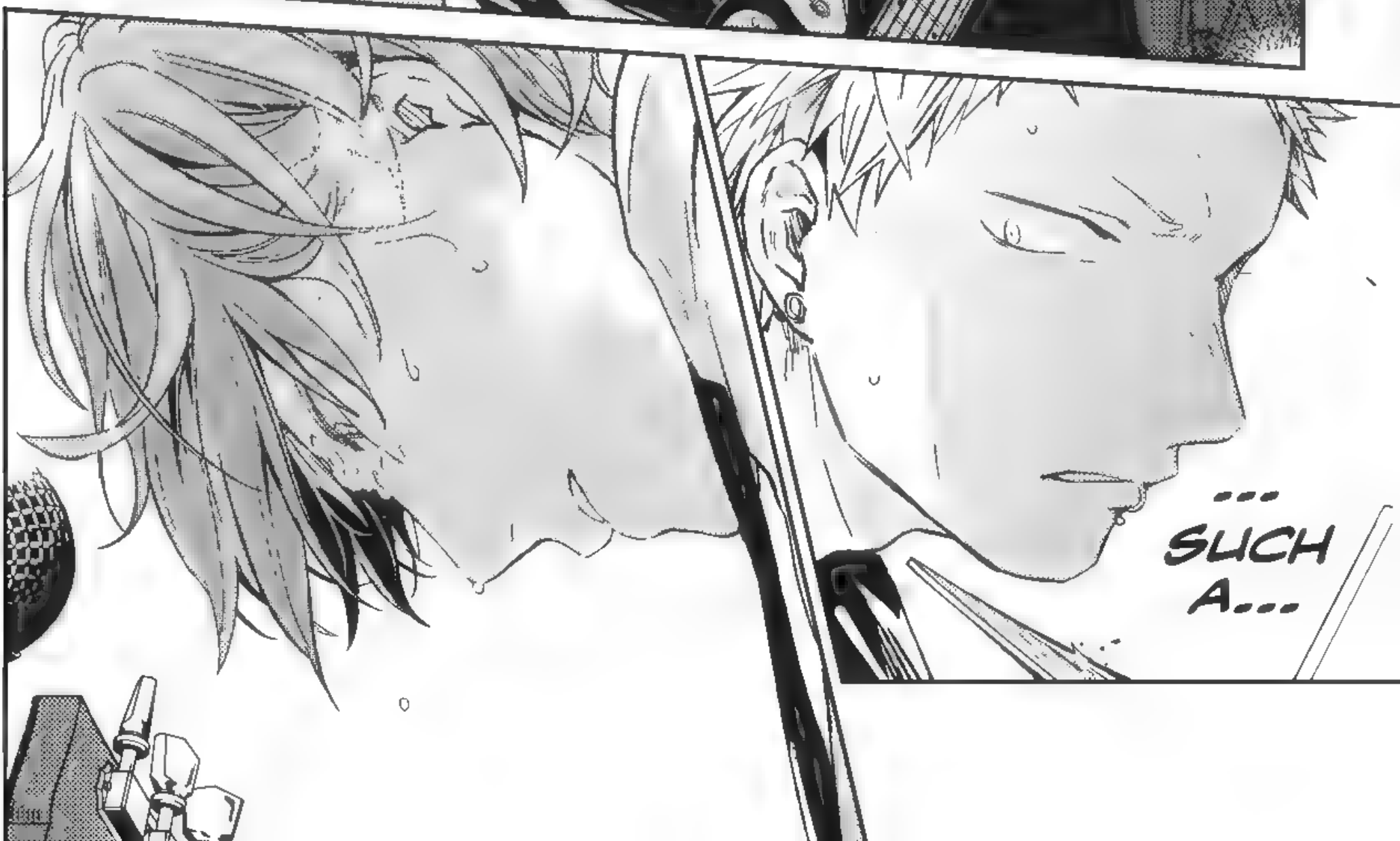
WHY DID  
---



WHY?



---I  
SAY---



...  
SUCH  
A...





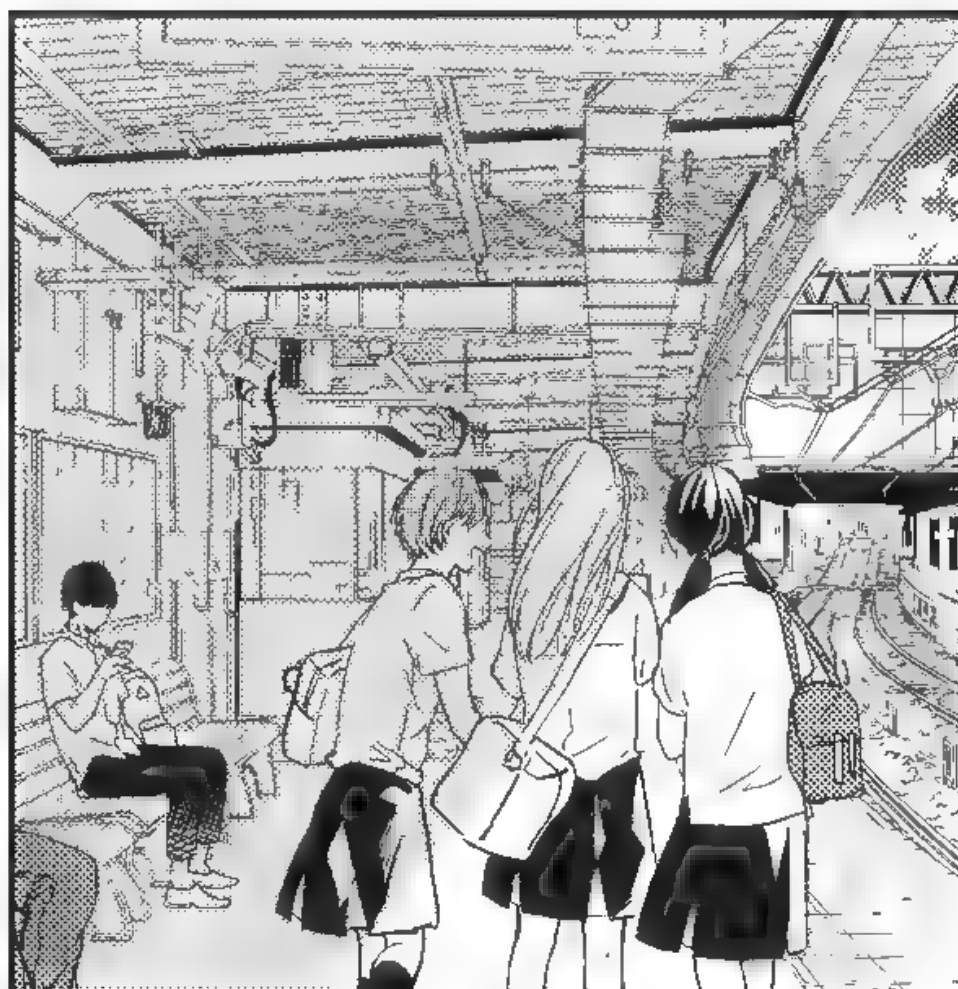
...HAS  
BEEN  
GIVEN  
THE  
GIFT OF  
TRUE  
TALENT.

HE'S  
SOMEONE  
WHO...

ROAR

I'M NOT  
LONELY.





WHEREVER  
I GO,  
YOU'RE  
ALWAYS  
THERE.





YOU'RE  
IN THE  
WORLD  
AROUND  
ME.



YOU'RE  
IN MY  
HEAD.



Hahaha!

Ping

The  
train  
will  
arrive

on  
track  
two

See  
ya  
later!




WHO

WHEREVER  
I GO,  
TRACES  
OF YOU  
REMAIN.

SH





I CAN'T  
FORGIVE  
YOU.



I CAN'T  
FORGIVE  
MYSELF.

BUT  
I  
WANT  
TO.

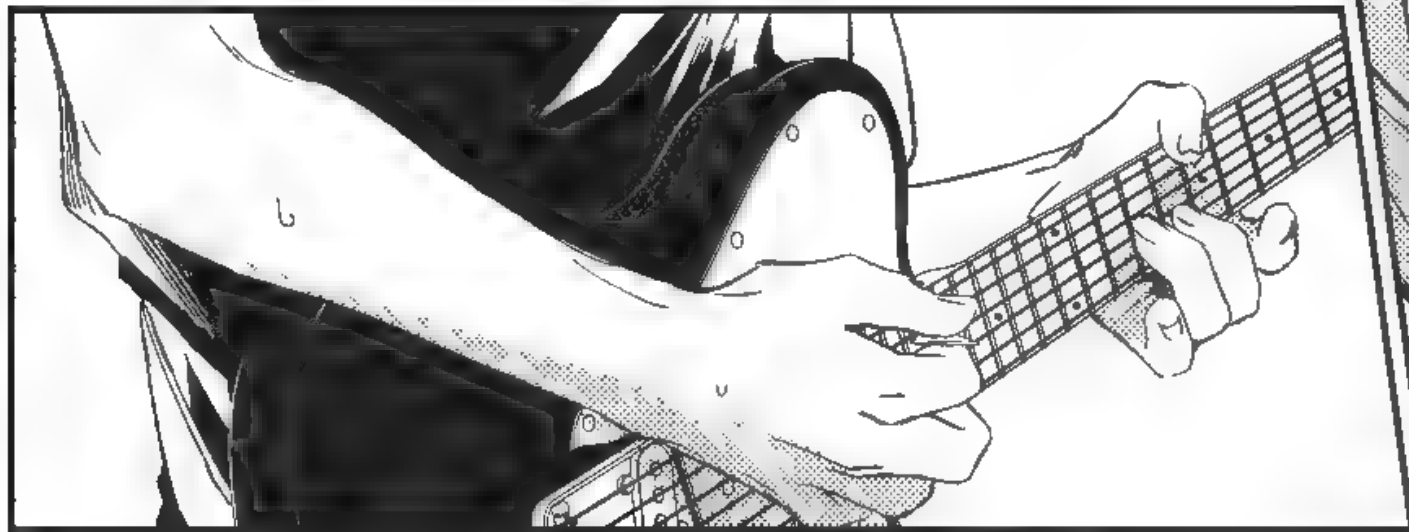




**I'M SO  
LONELY!**









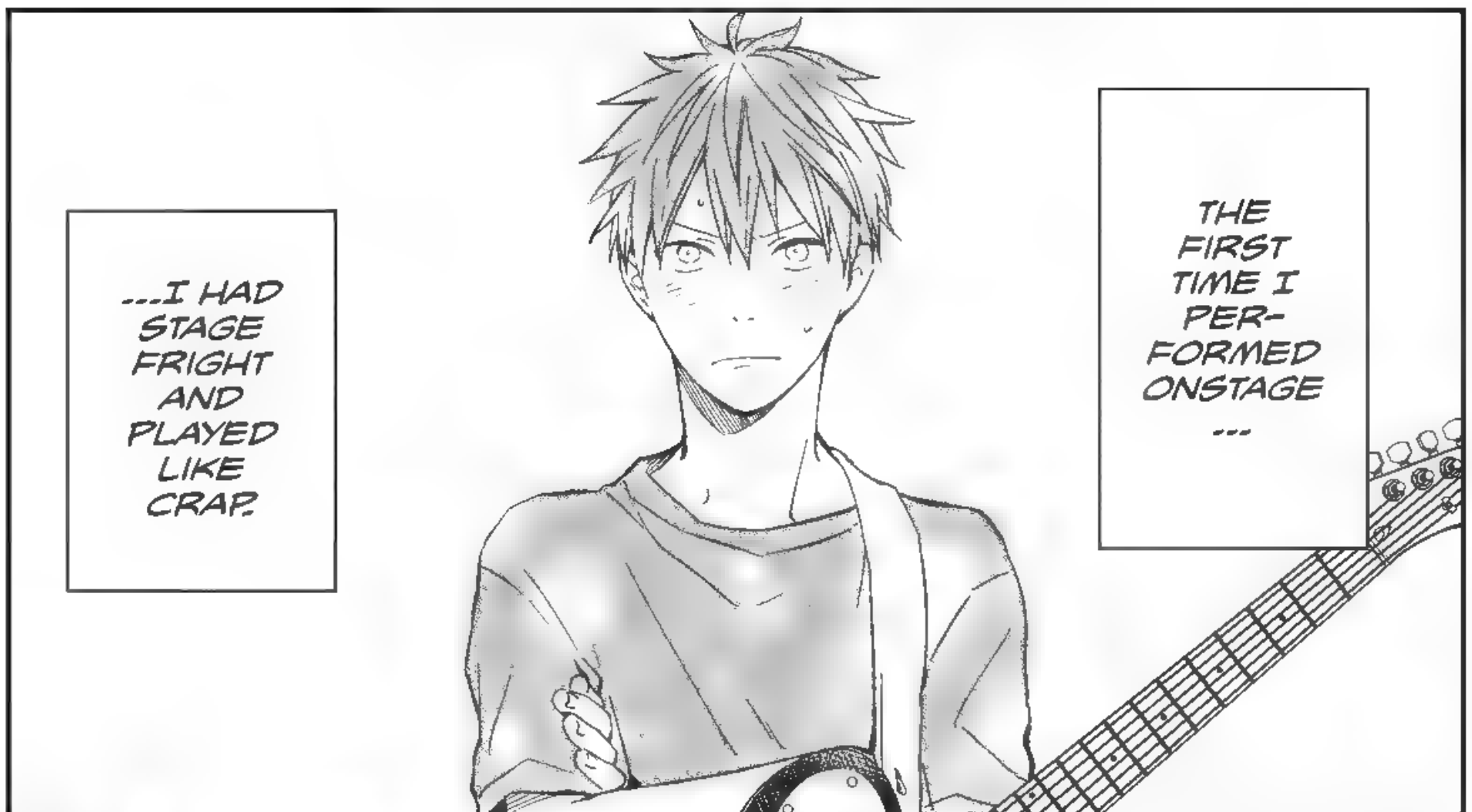
THE HEART IS LIKE A GUITAR STRING.

IF IT'S STRUNG TOO LOOSE,  
IT WON'T MAKE A SOUND.

BUT IF IT'S STRUNG TIGHT, ALMOST TO THE  
BREAKING POINT, TO THE POINT OF PAIN...

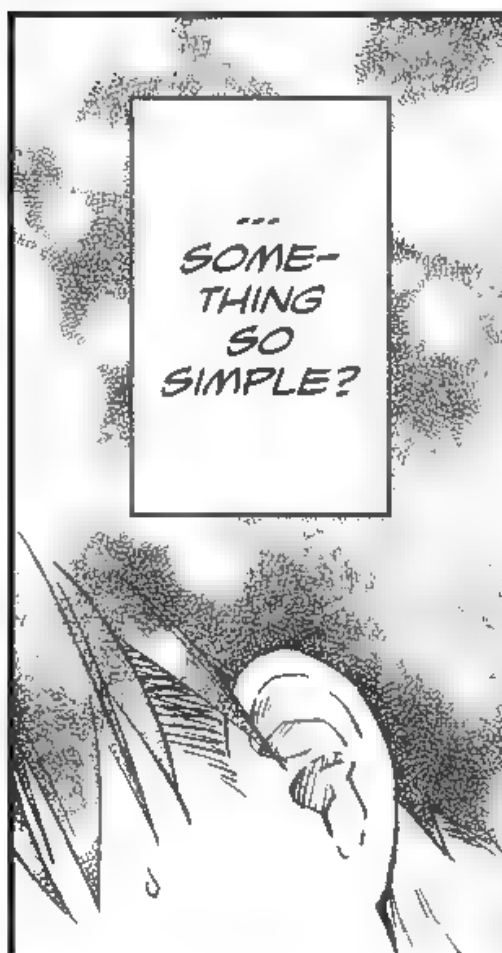
THEN...

IT CAN CREATE A SOUND THAT  
CRASHES OVER YOU LIKE A GIANT WAVE.



...I HAD  
STAGE  
FRIGHT  
AND  
PLAYED  
LIKE  
CRAP.

THE  
FIRST  
TIME I  
PER-  
FORMED  
ONSTAGE  
...



...  
SOME-  
THING  
SO  
SIMPLE?



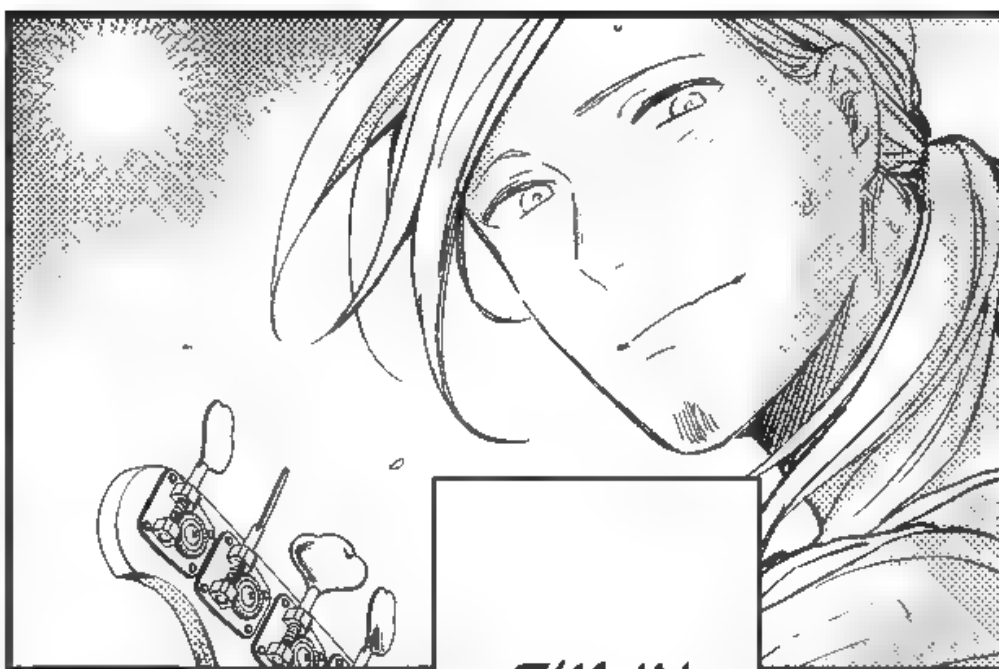
HOW  
COULD  
I...

...HAVE  
FORGOT  
...



...IT  
WAS  
ALSO  
EXCITING  
AS  
HELL.

BUT...



I'M IN  
LOVE.



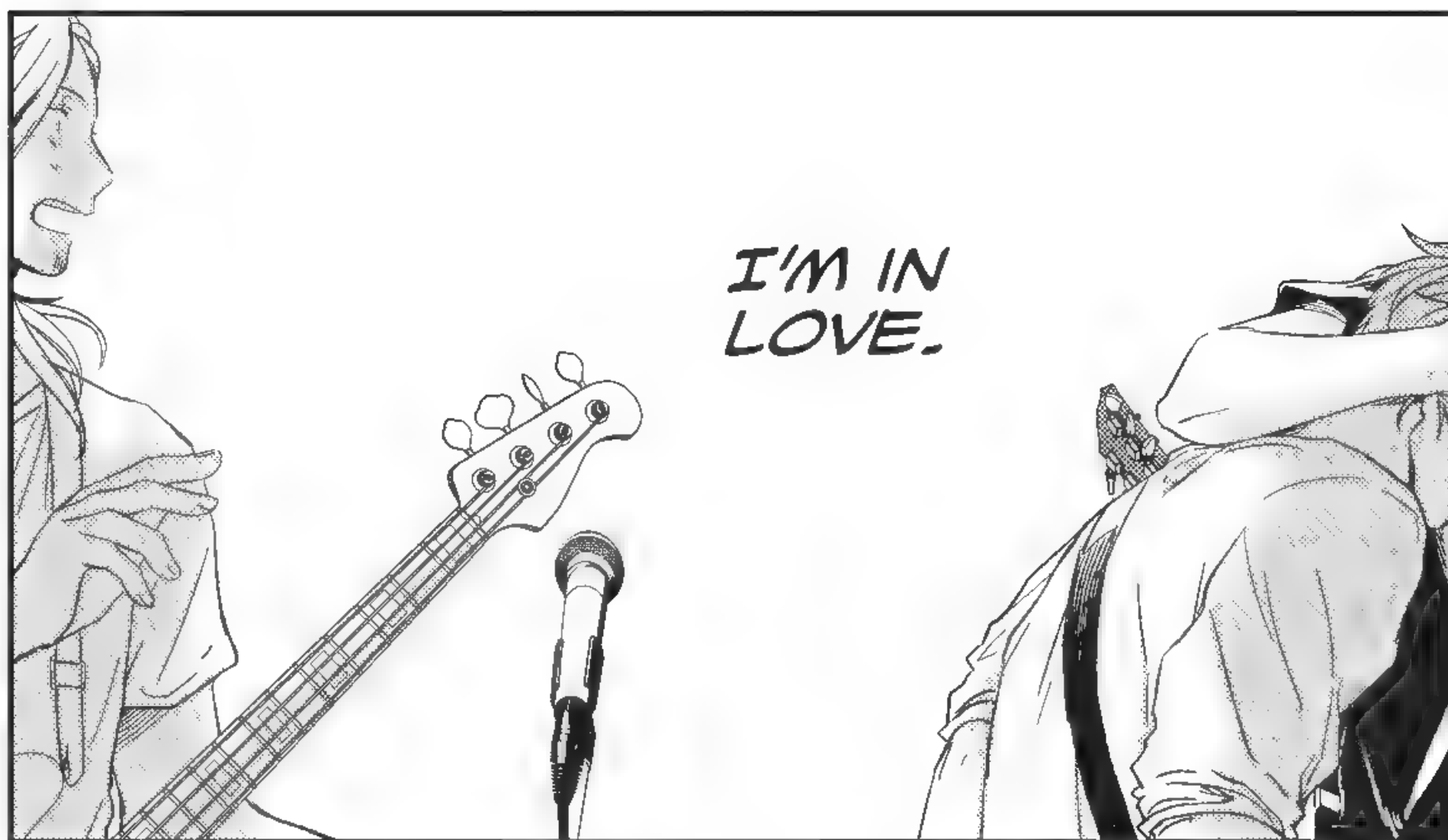
AND IT  
MAKES  
ME FEEL  
LIKE I'M  
GONNA  
CRY.

JIING







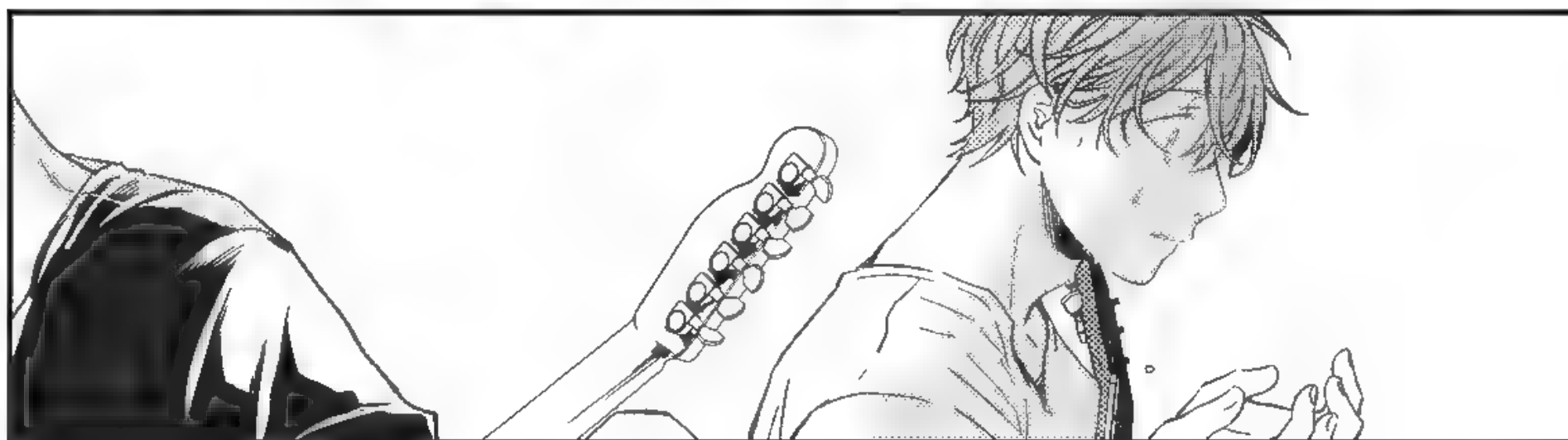




I CAN'T  
PRETEND  
ANYMORE.

THANK  
Y—









ALL  
RIGHT!

OUR  
GUITARIST  
IS BACK,  
SO WE'RE  
GONNA PLAY  
ANOTHER  
SONG!

Sorry,  
I'm  
ready.



...  
PLAYING  
MUSIC  
I  
LOVE.

keee

THIS  
IS AN  
INSTRU-  
MENTAL  
PIECE.

SHOUT  
OUT TO  
OUR P.A.  
FUJIMOTO  
FOR THIS  
THIRD  
ONE!

WOO!

clap  
clap

SHRIN



I'M NOT  
LONELY.

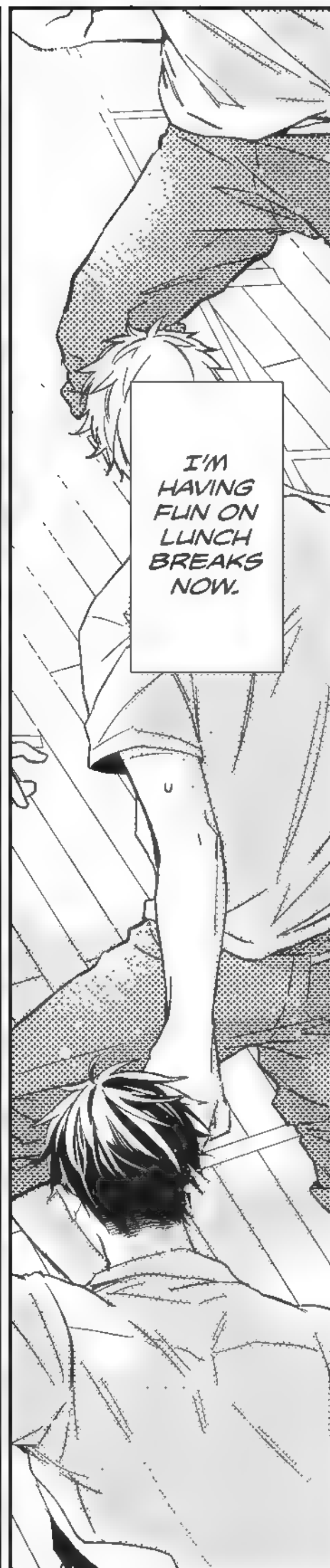
I'M  
HAVING  
A  
GOOD  
TIME...



I WISH  
I  
COULD  
TELL  
YOU ALL  
ABOUT  
IT.



AND  
THERE'S  
SOME-  
ONE  
NEW I  
LIKE.



I'M  
HAVING  
FUN ON  
LUNCH  
BREAKS  
NOW.



IT  
HAPPENED  
ONE  
SUMMER.  
IT  
HAPPENED  
ONE  
NIGHT.

Good  
show  
tonight.

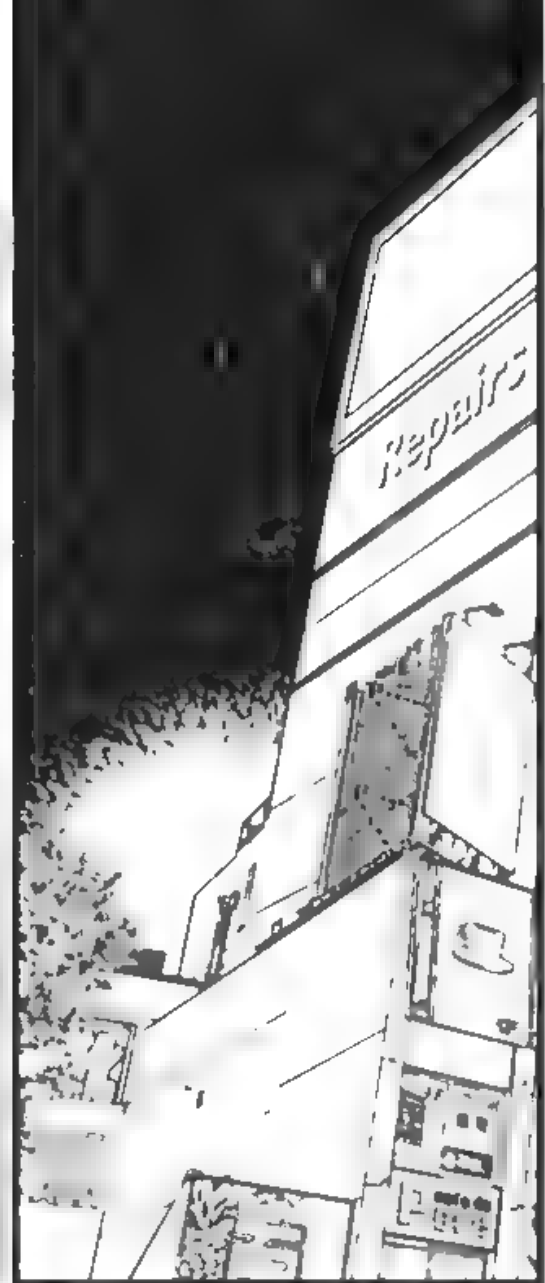
Chapter

See ya!  
G'night!

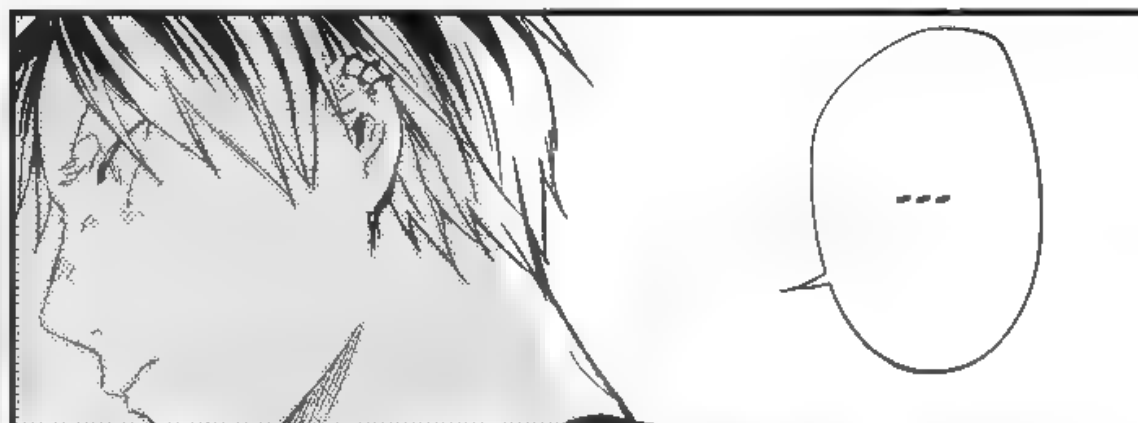
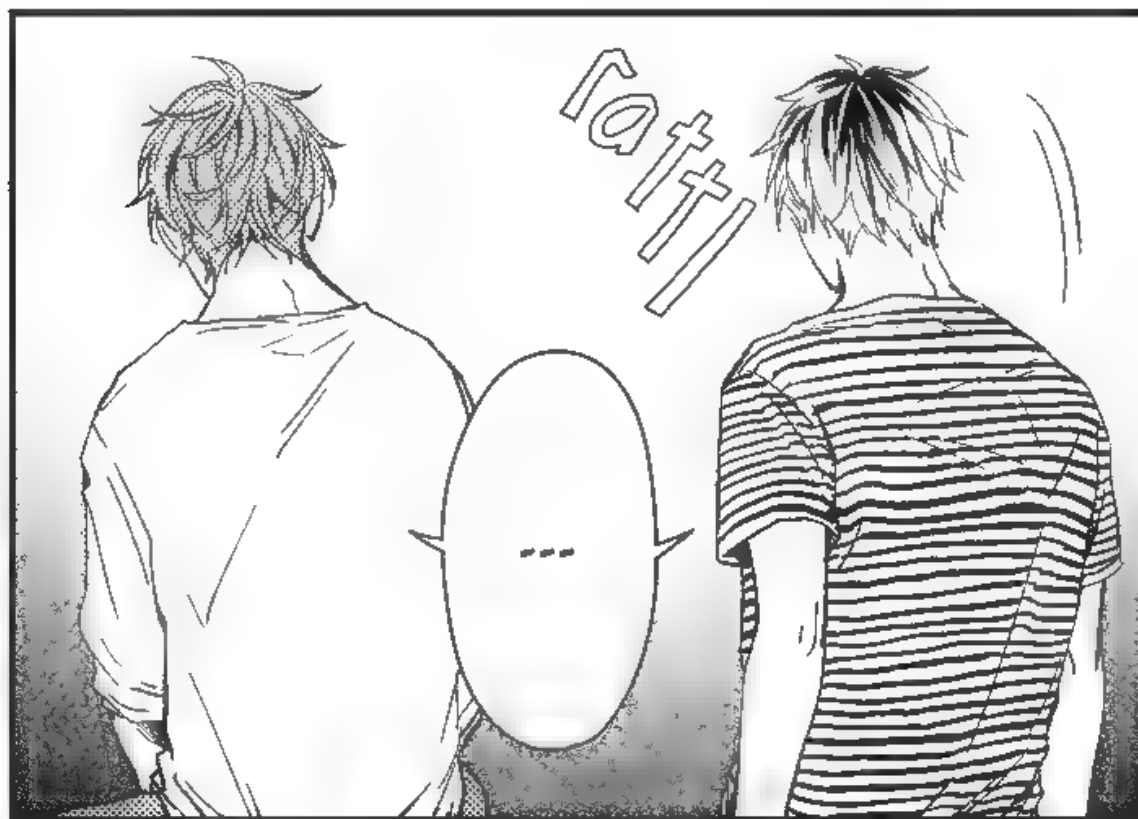
I liked  
the  
second  
band.

They  
were  
great

Chapter



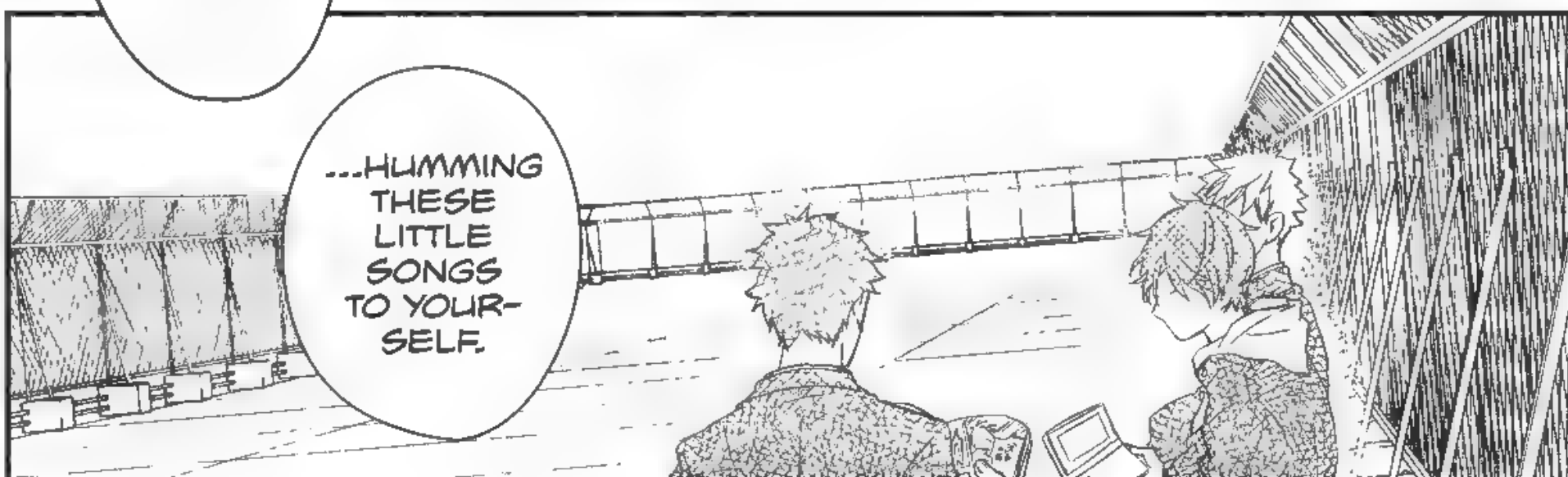
YUKI  
KNEW  
YOU  
LIKED  
MUSIC.



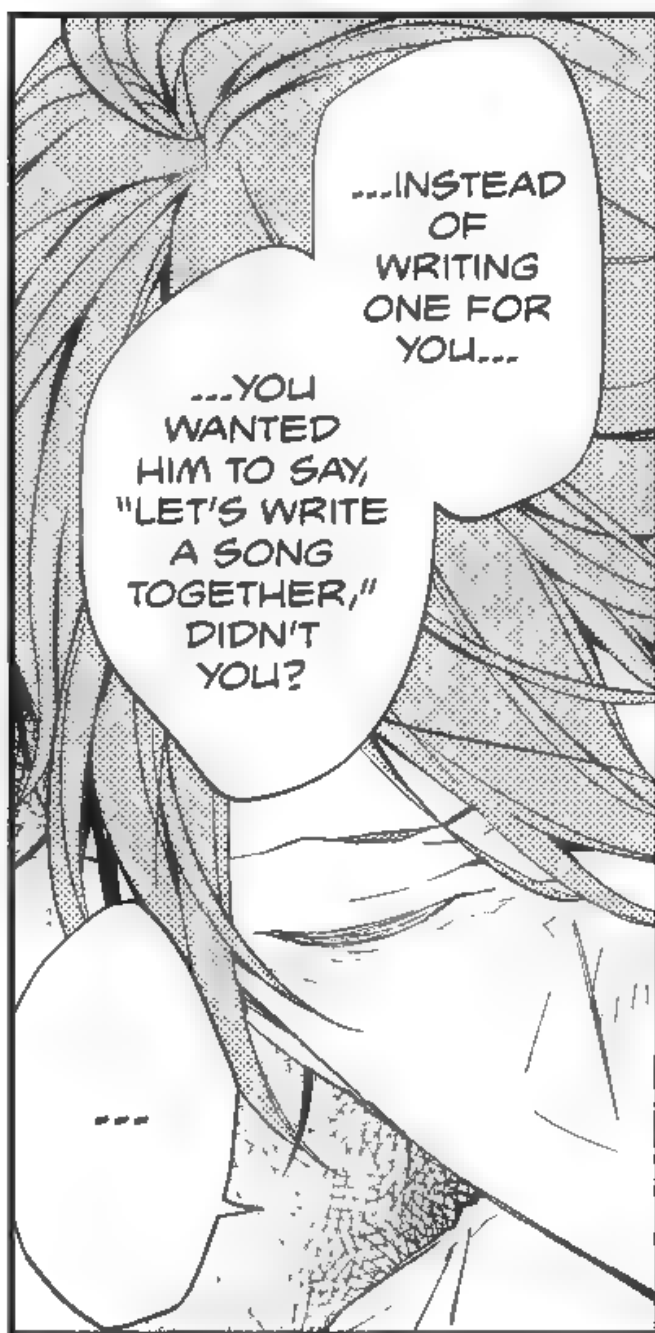
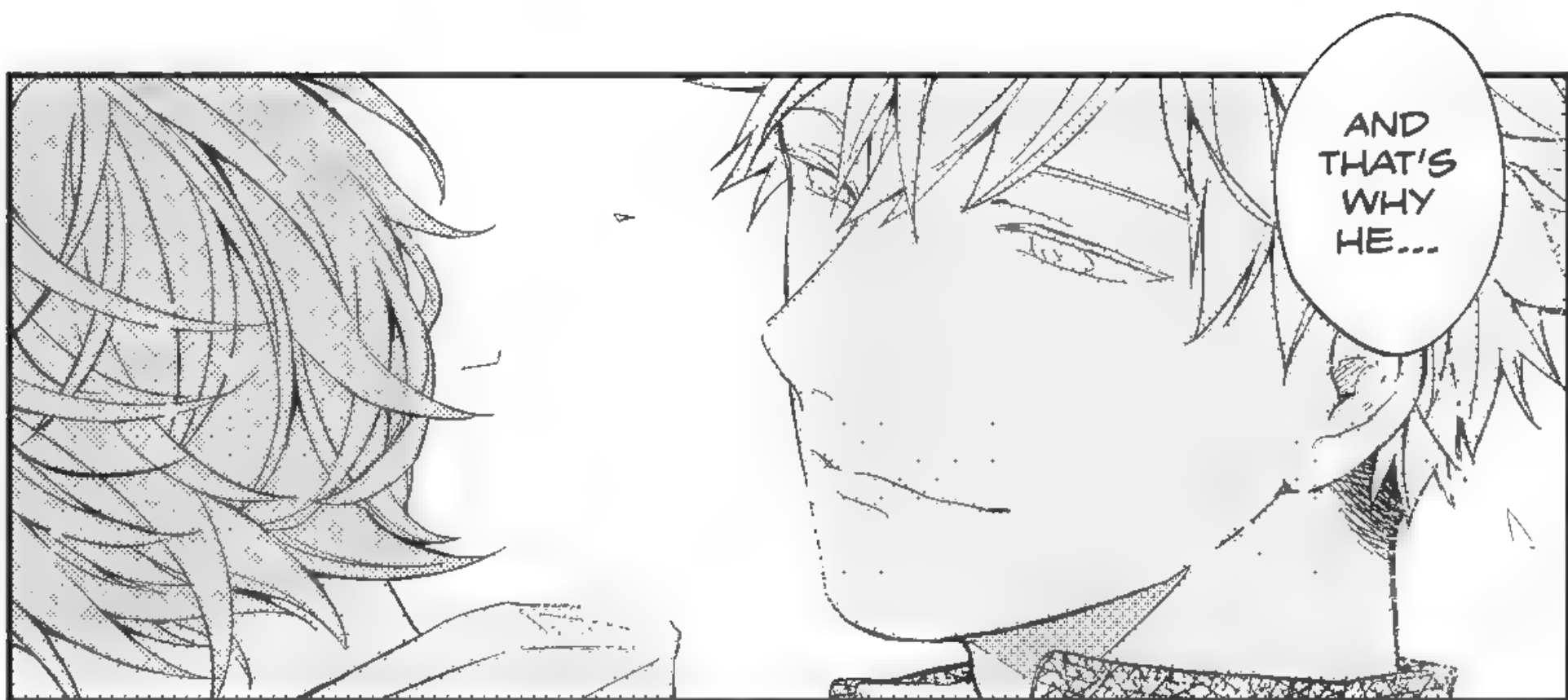
HE  
NOTICED  
THAT YOU  
WERE  
ALWAYS  
...

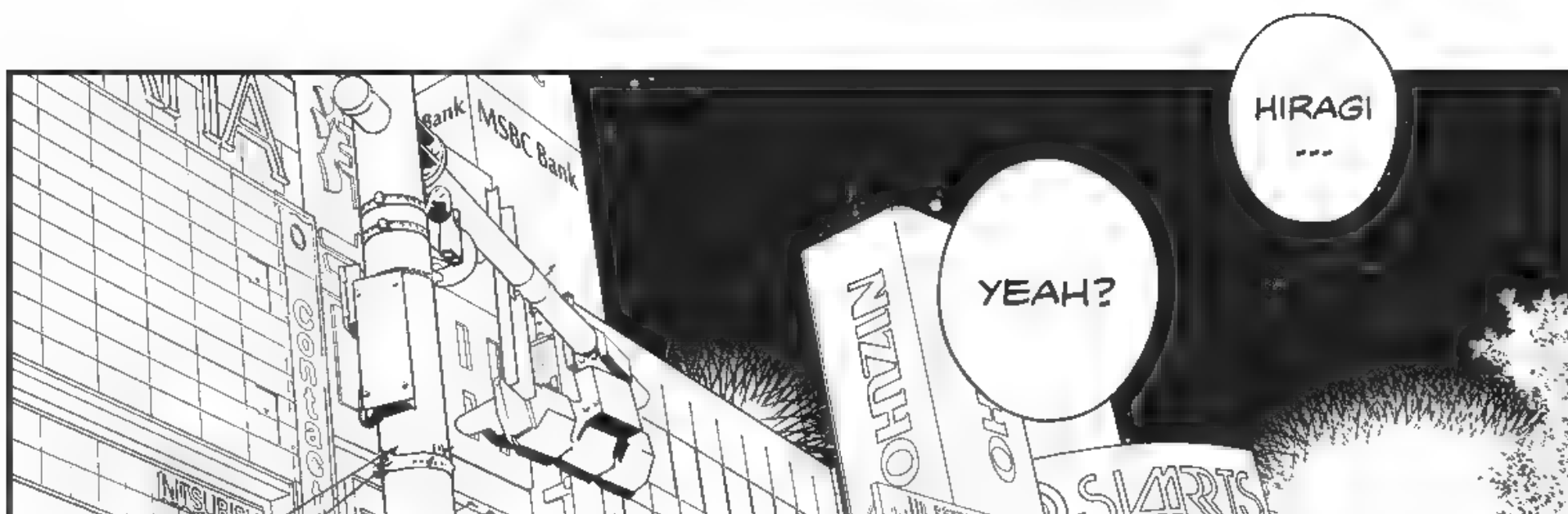


...HUMMING  
THESE  
LITTLE  
SONGS  
TO YOUR-  
SELF.









YOU'LL  
HELP  
ME OUT,  
RIGHT?

NO  
WAY.

HA HA  
HA!

*Non-Step*

M28

To Be Continued...





given

by Natsuki Kizu

# Backgrounds







You Know  
How a Dog  
Looks Proud  
When It  
Catches  
a Bug?

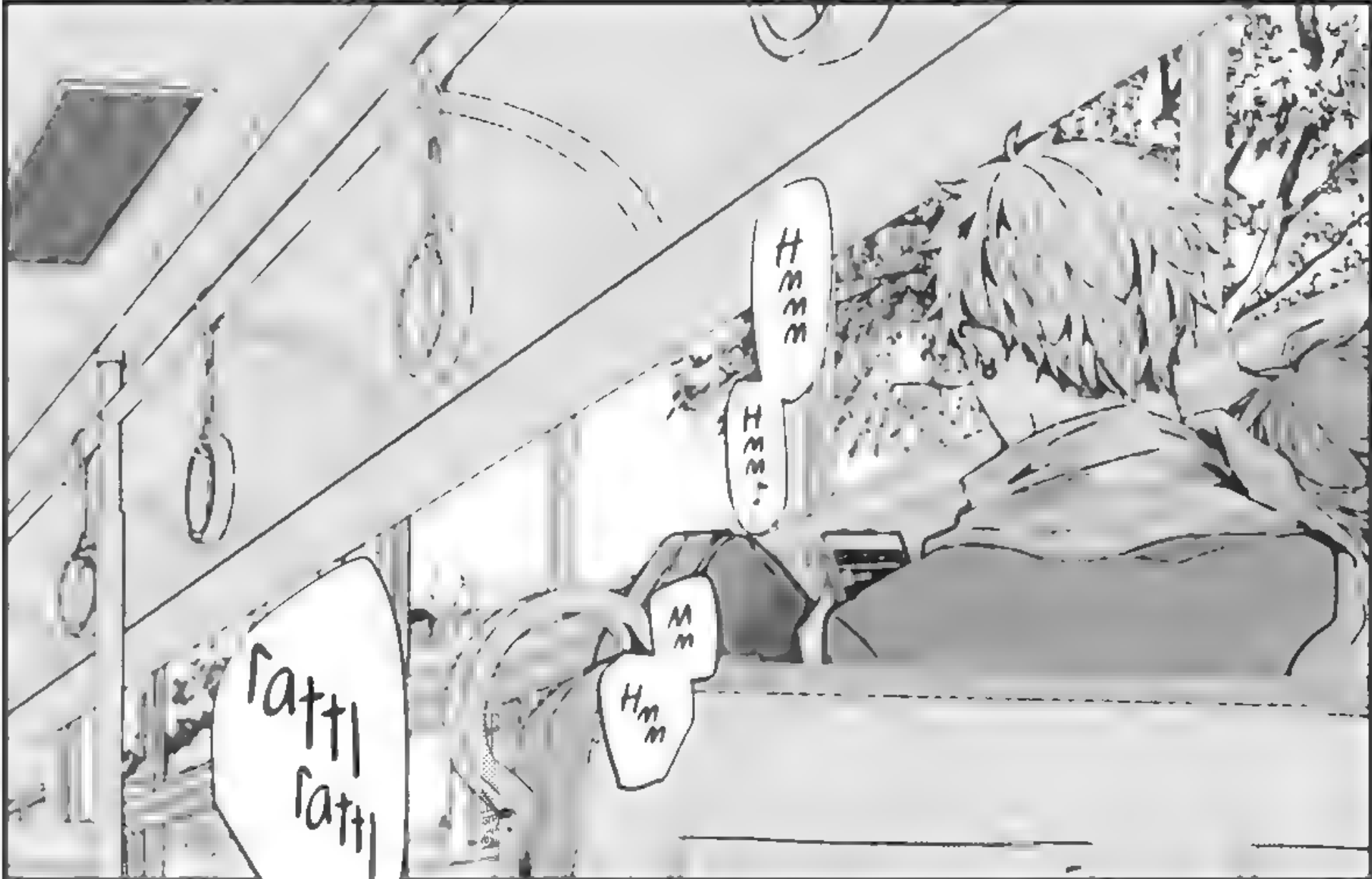


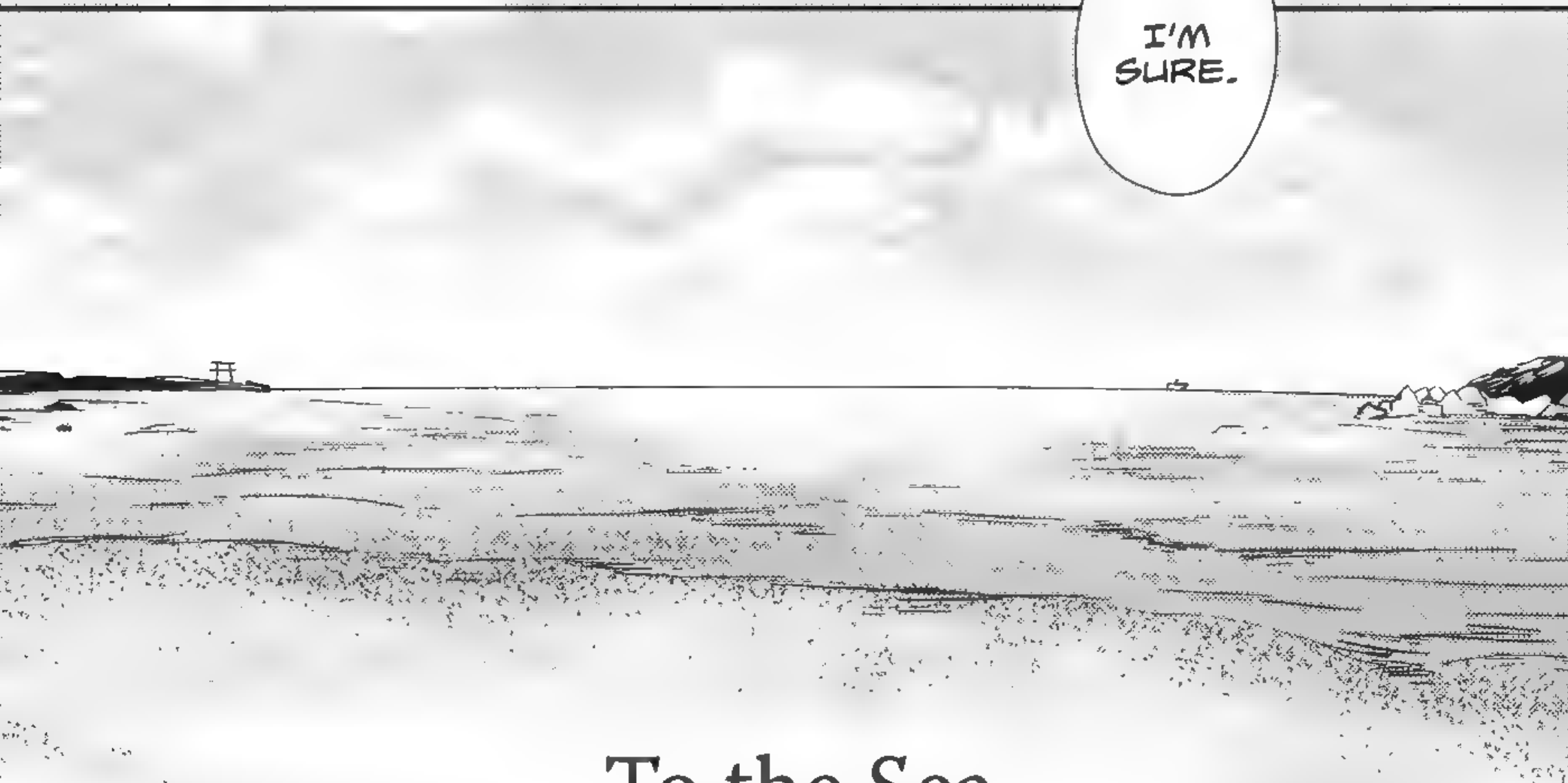
# A Precious Source of Protein











# To the Sea

Given Volume 2 Bonus Story







chff

HEEE

HEE

chff

HEEE



I THINK  
THIS IS  
THE FIRST  
TIME I'VE  
BEEN TO  
A BEACH  
...

ARE  
YOU  
SERI-  
OUS?!

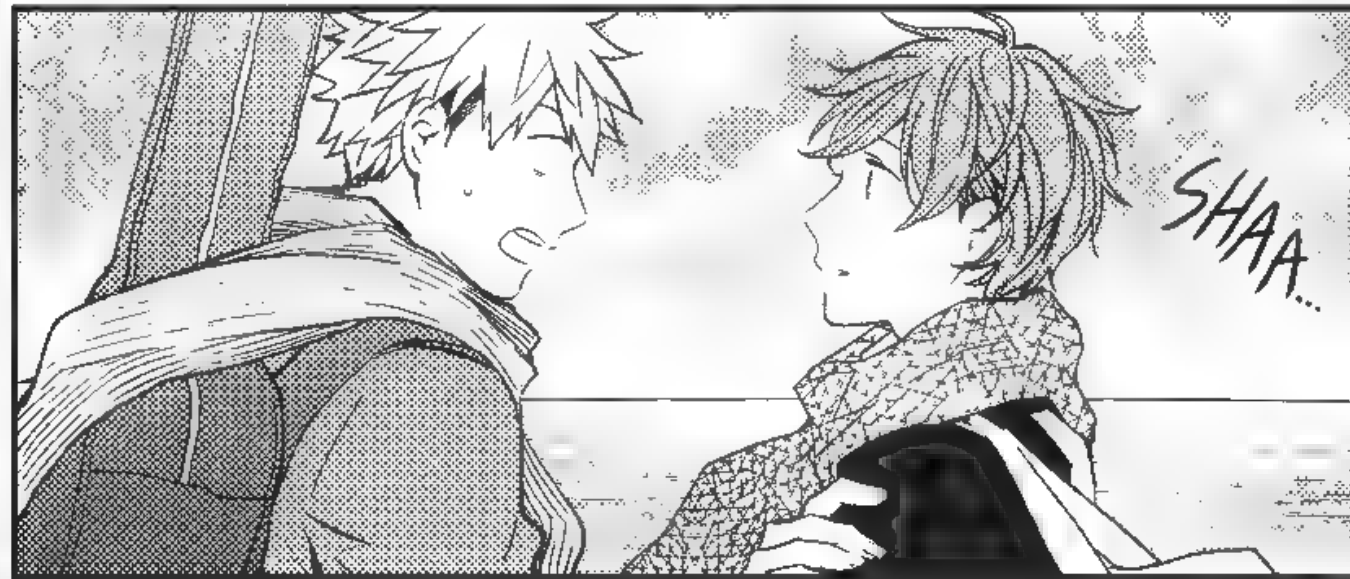


Oh!

!!

HUH  
?

WHAT  
IS IT?



SHAA...



YOU'RE  
A REALLY  
BAD LIAR.

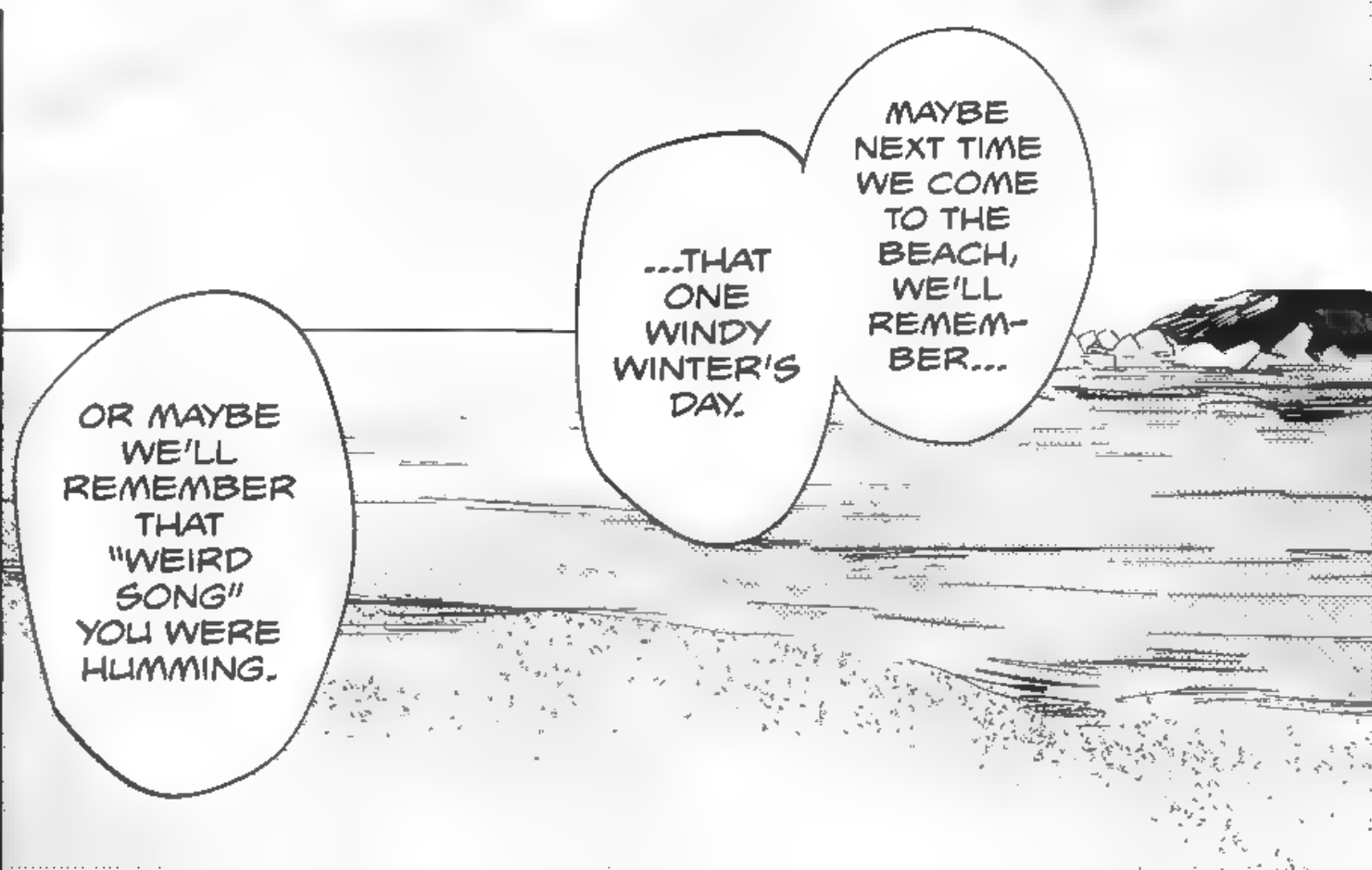
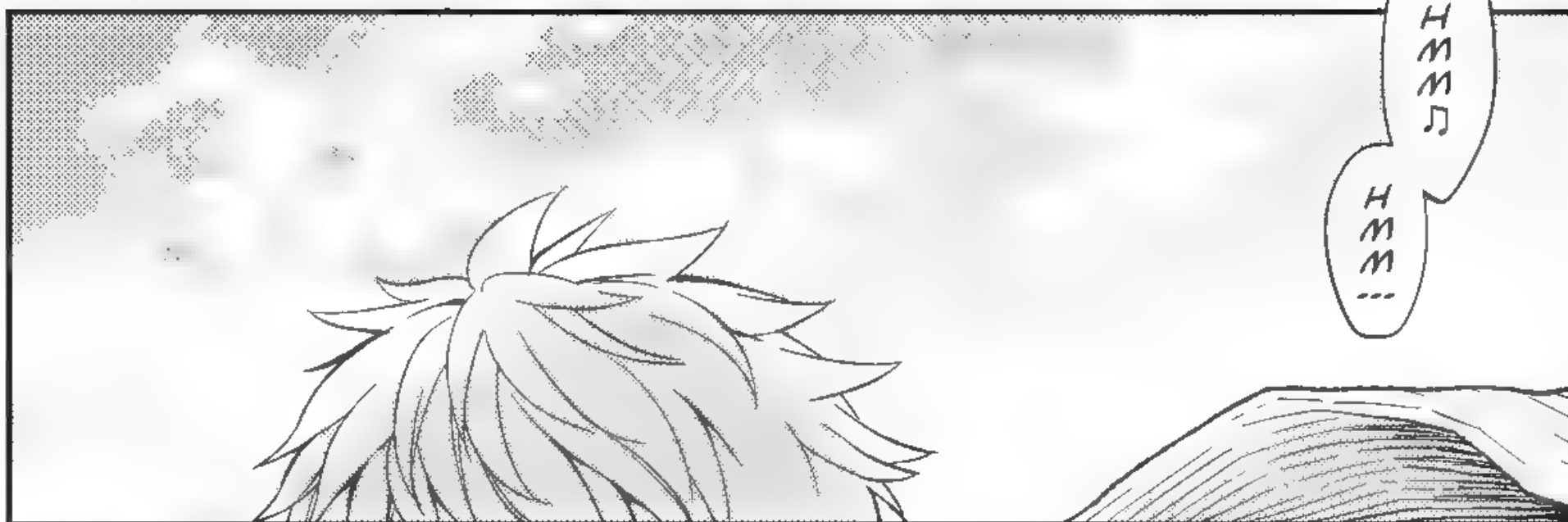
THIS  
BEACH  
IS  
GREAT!

THE  
BEST!

I'M  
SORRY  
I SAID  
IT'S  
KILL-  
ING  
ME!

WHY  
ARE YOU  
SORRY?

SHAA





NAH.

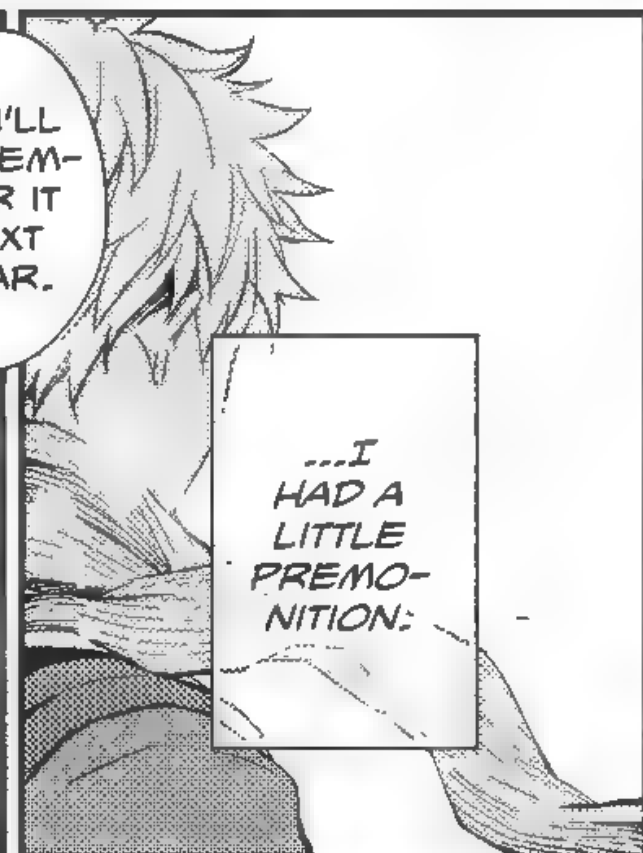
I'M  
SURE  
YOU'LL  
FORGET.



BUT I  
DOUBT  
IT'LL BE  
A CLEAR  
MEMORY  
FOR YOU  
AT ALL  
IN TEN  
YEARS.

AND  
MAYBE  
FIVE  
YEARS  
FROM  
NOW.

YOU'LL  
REMEM-  
BER IT  
NEXT  
YEAR.



...I  
HAD A  
LITTLE  
PREMO-  
NITION:



AT THAT  
MOMENT  
---



BUT I  
PROBABLY  
WILL  
FORGET IT,  
LITTLE BY  
LITTLE.



ALL  
RIGHT,  
LET'S  
GO!

I THINK  
I'LL  
REMEM-  
BER  
THIS DAY,  
EVEN TEN  
YEARS  
FROM  
NOW.



DETAIL  
BY  
DETAIL,  
I'LL  
FORGET.

THE  
WORDS  
WE SAID  
TO EACH  
OTHER...

THE  
NAME  
OF  
THE  
BUS  
STOP  
....

THE  
COLOR  
OF THE  
SWEATER  
I  
WORE...

WHEN  
WE GET  
BACK,  
LET'S  
HAVE SEX  
IN THE  
BATH.

THAT'S  
WHAT  
BEING  
"LONELY"  
MEANS.

YEAH  
....

NO.

Ha  
ha  
ha!

SO  
WHICH  
IS IT?

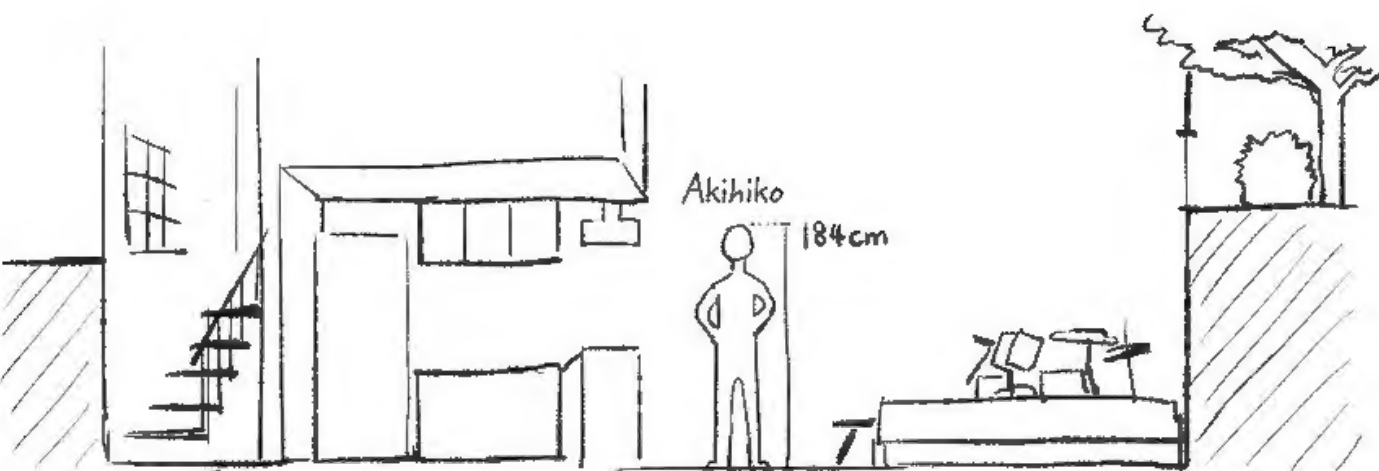
FOR-  
GET  
IT.

...WHILE  
UP ON A  
BLINDINGLY  
BRIGHT  
STAGE.

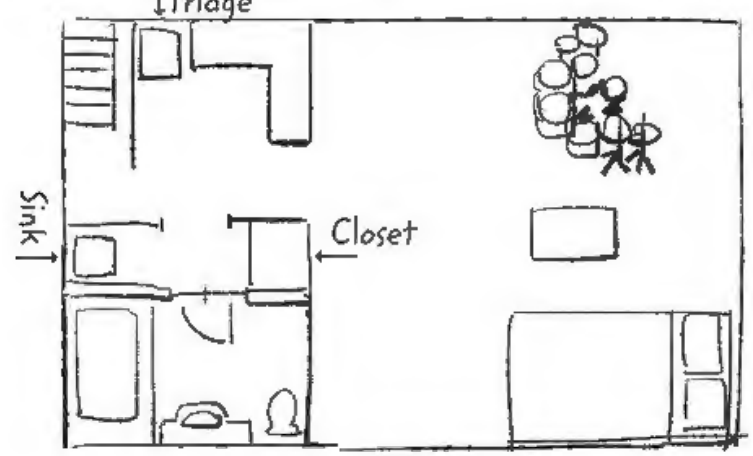
I  
WOULD  
REALIZE  
THAT  
ONE DAY...

given

by Natsuki Kizu

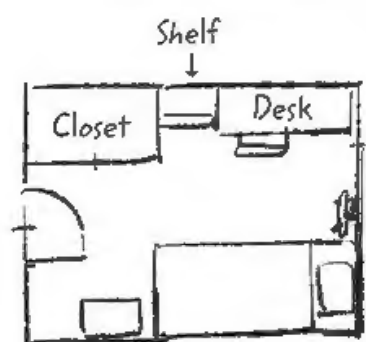
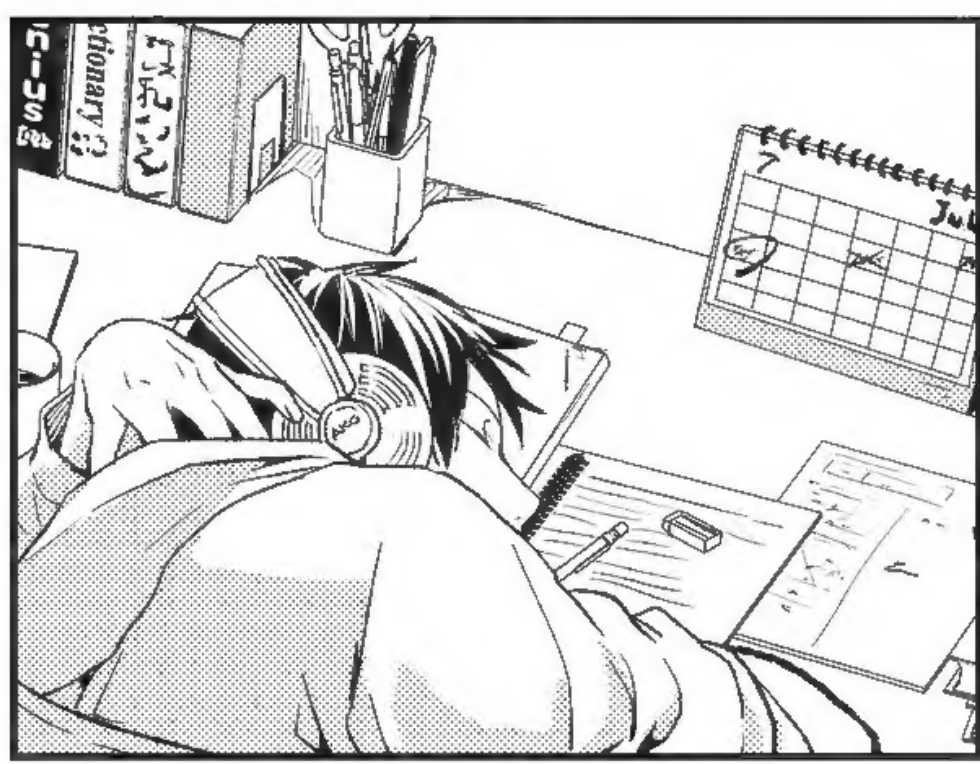


Akihiko's semi-basement house  
It's practically soundproof,  
so he can practice  
anytime.



Rough layout  
of unit

Akihiko's radio  
There's no TV  
in the house.



Rough layout

Uenoyama's room  
Small single room for  
the youngest child

On the science  
track

Uenoyama's grades are in  
the lower-middle rank of his  
school. Mafuyu's also on the  
science track, and his grades  
are about the same.

Bonus!  
Concept notes  
and sketches

Haruki's part-  
time job  
Akihiko calls it  
"one of those  
hipster cafes."

But he  
respects Haruki  
for being able  
to use a siphon  
coffee maker.





ENCOUNTER

FOR

EVERYONE

AND





## About the Author

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**Natsuki Kizu** made her professional debut in 2013 with *Yukimura Sensei and Kei-kun*, followed by the short story collection *Links* and her breakout series, *Given*, which has been adapted into drama CDs and an animated TV series. To find out more about her works, you can follow her on Twitter at **@kizu\_ntk**.

# Given

## Volume 2

SuBLime Manga Edition

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Cover and Graphic Design—**Jimmy Presler**

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Originally published in Japan in 2016 by Shinshokan Co., Ltd.



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Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by SuBLime Manga  
P.O. Box 77010  
San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1  
First printing, May 2020



**PARENTAL ADVISORY**

GIVEN is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains suggestive themes.

**SUBLIME**

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